



# The Spire

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

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May 2024

Come,  
Holy Spirit!



## ~May Worship~

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

### **Sunday, May 5**

Worship with Communion

Acts of the Apostles 17:1-15

Sermon: “Test and See,” Rev. Adam

Liturgist: Peggy Morris

### **Sunday, May 12**

Acts of the Apostles 18:24–19:7

Sermon: “What Do You Mean You Didn’t Know  
That?,” Rev. Adam

Liturgist: Kathy Taylor

### **Sunday, May 19**

Pentecost

Joel 2:23–3:2 & Acts of the Apostles 2:1-8

Sermon: “Now You’re Speaking My Language,”  
Rev. Adam

Liturgist: Marty Brandt

### **Sunday, May 26**

Trinity Sunday

Guest minister Rev. Judy Brain leading worship

Liturgist: Ruth Moran



## Tree of Life

Christian Love & Sympathy is extended to family and friends of Evelyn Moser, who died at age 103 on September 6, 2023. A graveside service in North Beverly Cemetery will be conducted by Chaplain Wendy Linares on Friday, June 7 at 10 a.m.; followed by a reception in Fellowship Hall for family and friends.



Spirited Women at the April 28th gathering. Learning about and making prayer flags. Thank you Wendy for leading the group. See back page for date of next meeting.

## ***A Note from Adam***

As we turn the calendar toward May and June, it's "meeting season" in church world. In our congregational tradition, we understand that the Holy Spirit is alive and at work in our gatherings, and we listen for her voice as we all share our thoughts. Voting in our tradition is not about each of us voting our conscience, but about discerning God's conscience and will for our church and voting accordingly. The congregational tradition is one that is inherently and perhaps intentionally slow and deliberate. It also requires a high level of participation, commitment, and study from each member, and care for each other and for our church. As we know, there is a great amount of freedom in how we choose to follow Jesus; the UCC provides support but does not dictate what we should do. And that also means we are responsible for determining, with God's help, what our outcomes will be. As we work together to build our legacy, participation in upcoming meetings will be critical in our collective living out of what we discern Jesus intends for his church in this season.

As we get into meeting season, I ask that you take the time to attend as many of the following meeting as you can, do your homework, and participate fully, so that you can help us listen to the Holy Spirit through your voice. All of the meetings listed below also have remote attendance options using Zoom in addition to attending onsite:

- Northeast Association UCC: Sunday, May 5, 3:00pm at our church
- Our church's annual meeting: Sunday, May 19 following worship
- Our next Forward Chat, focusing on updates from our Building Our Legacy team: Sunday, June 9 after worship
- Southern New England Conference UCC Annual Meeting: Friday-Saturday, June 21-22 at UMass Amherst (contact me if you would like to be a delegate from our church, which can be done onsite or using Zoom, all business happens on Saturday, with optional evens Friday evening)

**Rev. Adam Isbitsky**, Legacy Pastor

Second Congregational Church, Beverly, MA, UCC

cell: 978-473-7288 [revadam@beverlysecond.com](mailto:revadam@beverlysecond.com)



## See the Promise 2024: *June 5, 2024 at 6:00 PM*

Spring is here, which means Family Promise's annual 'See the Promise' event is right around the corner! Family Promise is so excited to enjoy a special evening of community and have a night out with their supporters, including our church. They are reinventing their classic fundraiser—you won't want to miss this new and dynamic take on this annual event. Join them at Olio, an historic theatre in downtown Peabody, where they'll have live music from the talented "Three Second Chances" and hear from special guest speaker, Yvonne Abraham from The Boston Globe.

[LINK FOR TICKETS](#)



*Thank you to everyone who supported One Great Hour of Sharing, a worldwide annual special offering. Together we collected \$722, which will be forwarded to the UCC to support disaster preparedness and response, refugee care, and humanitarian relief throughout the year. Your support really makes a difference!*

## Northeast Association's Spring Meeting

Sunday, 3 p.m.  
5th May, 2024

2nd Congregational Church  
35 Conant St. Beverly, MA  
978-922-5722

SAVE THE DATE!



 UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST  
a just world for all

[Register for Spring Meeting Here](#)



## Central Board News and Notes:

The Central Board met April 17. Rev. Adam participated in the Easter Sunrise Service at Lynch Park in addition to leading worship at Second Church later that morning. He will be offering **Bible Study** of Luke's Gospel starting **May 1<sup>st</sup>**, and offered to host an evening session on Zoom if enough interest is expressed. Rev Adam also shared 2 opportunities for church meeting delegates:

- Northeast Area Meeting Sunday May 5 – hosted at Second Church
- SNEUCC Annual Meeting Saturday June 22 – hosted at UMass Amherst

More details are elsewhere in the Spire, but please contact the church office, Rev Adam or Central Board members if you are interested in attending.

**Building Our Legacy Team Update** – the Central Board expects to get an update soon after our lawyers meet with representatives from the Attorney General's Office of Public Charity to discuss our legacy plans including our building sale this month. The CB has tentatively scheduled a **Forward Chat** to be hosted by the Legacy Team on **June 9<sup>th</sup>** after church.

**Investment Portfolio** - The Finance Team has proposed simplifying our endowment investments as our time horizon assumptions have changed to relatively short timeframes compared to our history. Currently the funds are divided over approximately 20 different categories with specific percentages for how the funds are apportioned. This has always been considered the best long-term approach and had produced lucrative returns but is also subject to market fluctuations. With a much shorter time horizon, the Finance Team has proposed moving our investments to certificates of deposits and money market accounts to minimize our market risk. Both types of accounts are currently experiencing good returns through the relatively high interest rates being paid. The CB agreed to bring the proposal to make this change to the congregation for a vote at the upcoming annual meeting.

**Annual Meeting** – is planned for **May 19**. This will involve the usual agenda of approving the Annual Report, hearing the results of the election of Central Board members, as well as a budget request from the Building Our Legacy Team for additional funds to cover legal expenses, and to change our investment strategy for the shorter legacy timeframe.

**Property Team / Building Use** – A special thank you to Jack Terrill and the Property Team for working to find a new vendor that was able to repair the lift and get it back into service. Next step is to schedule a state inspection. We are pleased to be able to reinstate access to our chapel and sanctuary for our mobility-challenged members and friends.

**Technology Team** – After a storm related power surge, David Brandt and our system consultant have us back in business – **GREAT JOB DAVID!** We hope to schedule an interview with an intern to help us most Sundays, so we can consistently offer remote access to worship.

The next Central Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. Contact the church office or one of the Central Board members if you would like to participate.

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

At our April 9, 2024 meeting, the Finance Team approved the March 31, 2024 Treasurer’s Report, ending the first quarter of the year and a summary is shown below. A few first quarter notes:

- Through March 31<sup>st</sup>, pledges and other budget donations received were ahead of budget. Total income YTD is on track with the budget but we are making use of budget balancer funds to cover the deficit.
- Our investment portfolio has been a monthly topic of discussion, recognizing that our investment horizon has changed to a much shorter term. Instead of the annual re-balancing to maintain the current mix of investments, safeguarding the funds from market fluctuations and making them available for distribution in the coming months or years seemed the best approach. After a review of our options at Schwab for moving current portfolio into cash or cash equivalents, we voted to recommend this change of strategy to the Central Board for them to consider and place on the Call to Meeting for a congregational vote at Annual Meeting in May.
- Most expenses have been routine with the exception of repairs to the lift (now completed) and a power outage that required a service call to troubleshoot and the reset of some AV equipment.

ACCOUNT NAME	2024 Budget	2024 Budget-YTD	2024 Actual-YTD
<b>BUDGET INCOME</b>			
INTEREST/INVESTMENT INCOME <sup>1)</sup>	\$ 147,145	\$ 36,788	\$ 35,241
TOTAL BUDGET DONATIONS	\$ 87,530	\$ 21,885	\$ 25,197
TOTAL BUILDING USE	\$ 79,375	\$ 19,844	\$ 17,816
REVENUE ENHANCEMENT	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL BUDGET INCOME	\$ 314,050	\$ 78,517	\$ 78,254
<b>BUDGET EXPENSE</b>			
PLEDGE MISSION (10% OF PLEDGES) <sup>2)</sup>	\$ 20,122	\$ 5,031	\$ 1,710
PASTORAL SERVICES	\$ 89,333	\$ 22,335	\$ 19,119
MUSIC COMM. EXPENSE	\$ 31,913	\$ 7,981	\$ 7,896
ADMINISTRATIVE	\$ 47,052	\$ 11,764	\$ 12,298
UCC "PROPORTIONAL GIVING" & ASSOCIATION	\$ 4,400	\$ 1,101	\$ 666
INSURANCE CHURCH	\$ 16,800	\$ 4,200	\$ 5,168
MAJOR MAINTENANCE	\$ 28,548	\$ 7,137	\$ 2,232
MAINT, MATERIALS & SUPPLIES	\$ 2,050	\$ 513	\$ 340
SEXTON & SECURITY	\$ 13,982	\$ 3,496	\$ 3,496
CHURCH UTILITIES	\$ 46,050	\$ 11,513	\$ 17,522
ADMIN OFFICE EXPENSE	\$ 13,550	\$ 3,389	\$ 3,157
SEARCH TEAM EXPENSE	\$ 250	\$ 63	\$ -
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$ 314,050	\$ 78,523	\$ 73,605

1) includes 2024 budget balancer of \$71,070

2) plus 12% from Mission Endowment Fund

## **Two Financial Requests for the Annual Meeting**

At the Annual Meeting on May 19, you will be asked to vote on two requests. One is from the Building our Legacy Team that requests an allocation of an additional \$40,000 to provide funding for ongoing and future legacy actions. The second is a proposal from the Finance Team to change how we invest our funds. The following provides you with information that may help you better understand the requests.

### **Building Our Legacy Team - \$40,000 request**

Last March 2023, the Team requested an expenditure of up to \$40,000 for the costs of future legal, accounting, and other consulting services necessary to conduct the work of relinquishing the ownership of the building and other assets. Since that time the Team has contracted for a commercial appraisal of the building and property (\$2900) and hired two legal firms. The first was the firm of Elizabeth Reinhardt and Company represented by Elizabeth Reinhardt and Constance Castro. They were hired to provide legal guidance as the Team navigates the required Attorney General's Office of Public Charity legal process. The second was the Law Office of Meredith A. Fine, represented by Meredith Fine. She was hired to provide real estate legal services required to complete the eventual sale. Both firms have been very active participating in Zoom calls with the Team, reviewing our church documents, participating in discussions and negotiating terms with Liifebridge's attorney and presenting our proposed action to the Attorney General's Office. To date, legal costs have totaled \$32,200. The remaining amount from the \$40,000 is \$4900. We have not received a bill since February and expect the next bill will fully expend the funds.

The request for the additional \$40,000 will be used for the costs of future legal, accounting, and other consulting services with the purpose of working to relinquish the ownership of the building and other assets. This funding request originated with Building Our Legacy Team, was approved by the Finance Team and was approved by the Central Board for consideration at the Annual Meeting.



### **Finance Team – Recommend a change in investment strategy**

Our invested funds total over \$1.4 million. For many years the funds were invested in cash, stocks, bonds, and hard assets. Each year the Finance Team, with help from Roger Moulton, would evaluate the mix of investments and rebalance the funds to established percentages. The purpose was to maximize investment but with a moderate risk. There have been times through the years when the funds did very well and other times, not so well. Notably the Dot.Com bust of the early 2000's, the Global Financial Crisis which occurred in 2008-2009 and the recent COVID Pandemic. Since the funds were invested for the long term, the expectation was that the funds would recover, as they did each time. Now with a closer time horizon when the funds will be needed, the need is for more stable, more protected funds, but also with the ability to withdraw those funds when needed.

The Finance Team investigated other financial instruments such as money markets and certificates of deposit (CD), both of which are earning around 5%. The Team determined that the financial company where the invested funds currently reside, there are also money markets and CDs that would allow us the ability to easily transfer the funds into. A recommended approach is to put 2 years of operating funds into a money market and the remaining funds into a series of CDs with both short and longer terms. Why would we need to do this? When the time comes to distribute our financial assets to other organizations, the ability to do the transfers easily is necessary. This recommendation originated at the Finance Team and was approved at the Central Board for consideration at the Annual Meeting. Further information and a presentation will be provided at the Annual Meeting.

## SCC SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER

Yes, it's that time of year when Jake's tomato plants begin looking for homes. So, check the list below and decide how many of which kind you would like to adopt. They should be ready to travel later in May and Jake has set aside a couple of days for pick-up (**afternoons of Friday or Saturday, May 17 or 18.**)

It would be helpful to your order to him [Jacobson-neiga@comcast.net](mailto:Jacobson-neiga@comcast.net) so the plants will be ready when you arrive. The address is 4 Lindsey Avenue in the Ryal Side section of Beverly. Your donation to the Scholarship Fund can be made in cash or check made payable to Second Congregational Church. Our future Scholarship recipients will be most grateful for your participation in this annual fundraiser.

### 2024 Tomato Plants (by Jake)

<u>VARIETY</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
Abraion (1)	Disease resistant prolific global size tomato. (70 days)
Black Krim (I)	Russian Heirloom, Juicy rich sweet flavor w brownish purple skin. (80 days)
Box Car Willie (I)	Heirloom produces red 8-10 oz fruit. Crack free, sweet yet tart Tomato.
Big Daddy (I)	15 Oz. fruit great taste, disease resistant (78 days)
Burpee Summer (I)	Super sweet 3-5 oz tomato with deep red color. (73 days)
Burpee Pink Hybrid (I)	Large 8-10 oz beefsteak with rose skin heirloom. (75 days)
Bob Lusardi #1 (I)	Large Roma Type very meaty. (75 days)
Lusardi # 2 (I)	Large Roma shape is different than #1 good for making Salsa / piccalilli (75 Days)
Celebration Hybrid (I)	Large Red 8 oz fruit good for salads and sandwiches (72 days)
Mike Vas (Beefsteak) (I)	Delicious tasting Beefsteak tomato. (75 days)
Sun Gold (I)	Small orange hybrid cherry tomato. 75 days)
Tear Drop (I)	Heirloom. Very prolific small cherry size tomato (75 days)
Dwarf Velvet Cherry (I)	Prolific Tiny cherry purple in color (75 days)

I = Indeterminate - Vine type, stake or place in wire cages.

Email order to : [Jacobson-neiga@comcast.net](mailto:Jacobson-neiga@comcast.net)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Pick up date \_\_\_\_\_





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Beverly MA 01915



Spirited Women will be meeting in the parlor following the annual meeting on May 19th program will be announced at a later time.

All women in the church are welcome to attend. We will have this May meeting . Marty has offered a walk to the beach behind her house for a June date. Exact date TBD. then we will break for the Summer. Meetings to resume in September. for monthly meetings once again.