



# The Spire

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

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April 2024



## ~April Worship~

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

- 7      Worship with Special Communion  
Focus Scripture: John 21:1-19  
Sermon: “Here’s My Heart” Rev. Adam  
Liturgist: Doug Marquart
- 14     Focus Scripture:  
Acts of the Apostles 4:32-5:11  
Sermon: “Uncle Sam vs. Peter” Rev. Adam  
Liturgist: Peggie Morris
- 21     Focus Scripture: Psalm 23  
Sermon: “Before, Beside, Behind”  
Rev. Adam  
Liturgist: Dale Miller Bouton
- 28     Focus Scripture:  
Acts of the Apostles 8:26 -40  
Sermon: “From Gatekeeping to Gate  
breaking” Rev. Adam  
Liturgist: Dale Earl



## Tree of Life

Birthday blessings and good wishes are extended to Roger Wonson, who will be celebrating a life well lived on April 20 on his 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday (The Current #215, 1 Essex Street, Beverly, MA 01915)

A Warm Welcome is extended to Mäds Pearson Englund Taylor, born to Keith Taylor and his wife Erica Englund, on March 6<sup>th</sup> in Portland, Maine (grandson to Kathy Taylor).

Christian Love & Sympathy is extended to family and friends of Bob Munroe, who died March 7. Cards can be sent to the family c/o Bob’s Wife Suzanne Munroe, 52 Ellsworth Avenue, Beverly MA 01915.

## Annual Reports

Church staff, officers and team leaders are asked to prepare an annual report, reflective of happenings during the past year (May 2023-April 2024). These reports will be presented in May at the Annual Meeting for church member approval. Deadline for submitting reports is Monday April 22<sup>nd</sup>: [parishadmin@beverlysecond.com](mailto:parishadmin@beverlysecond.com) in Times New Roman 14 pt. type, editing mode.

## ***A letter from Adam***

Dear Church,

As we embrace the arrival of this sacred season of resurrection, I am filled with anticipation for the renewal and revival it brings to our lives. The Easter season is not merely a time to commemorate the resurrection of Christ, but also a time to reflect on the myriad ways resurrection manifests in our own lives.

Each of us carries within us stories of overcoming, of rising from the depths of despair, or persisting through challenging times with the support of our faith. In the spirit of this season, I encourage you to take a moment to think about these moments of personal resurrection. Have you experienced a renewal of spirit, a revival of hope, or a positive turn of events in your life? Remember and savor that time: all the feelings and all the moments.

This season during worship there will be an opportunity to share those stories during worship. If you have a good story, reach out to me and we'll work together on the best way to present it—it doesn't have to be perfect or particularly amazing, just true!

Your stories have the power to inspire and uplift others who may be in the midst of their own trials. They remind us that even in our hardest moments, there is the promise of new life and transformation.

Furthermore, let us keep our eyes open for signs of resurrection and new life in the world around us. Whether it be the budding of flowers, the birth of a child, or the reconciliation of relationships, let us rejoice in these manifestations of God's grace.

May this season be a time of reflection, celebration, and gratitude as we bear witness to the resurrection in our own lives and in the world.

Your brother in Christ,

Rev. Adam

### **Save the Date**

The Northeast Association will hold its spring annual meeting on  
Sunday, May 5 at 3:00 at a local church TBD.

## Central Board News and Notes:

The Central Board met March 20. Rev. Adam told the board that he is settling in getting into a routine. That he is getting to know the staff and congregation. Worship plans for Easter and the month of April are in good shape.

**Building Our Legacy Team Update** – Earlier this month a letter had been sent to the Attorney General’s Office. The letter is not a formal submission from the church. Rather it explains what the church would like to do, namely transfer the building consistent with its mission, to an entity that is not a church. Our attorney is following up with the office to try to get an early read on what they are thinking. An unsolicited request has come in from another church expressing interest in the handbells. It is still too early in the process but it is good to hear that there is interest.

**Forward Chats** – The recently held Death Café was considered a Forward Chat and had approximately 25 attending. The plan is for another Forward Chat in June with the topic being an update from the Building Our Legacy Team.

**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.

**Investment Portfolio** - The Finance team has been discussing moving the investment portfolio to a safer, more liquid type of investment instrument. 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 horizon of when the funds will be ultimately distributed to dispose of assets, the thought is to move the funds to something safer, with lower risk, such as certificates of deposits or money market accounts. Both types of accounts are current experiencing good returns through the relatively high interest rates. This will also allow us to move money quicker when the time comes for final dissolution. The Central Board requested the Finance Team to develop of recommendation for where the Investment Portfolio should be moved to, to provide safety but greater liquidity.

**Property Team / Building Use** – Three vendors examined the lift, and several indicated that it should be repaired rather than replaced. One vendor has been selected to do the repairs.

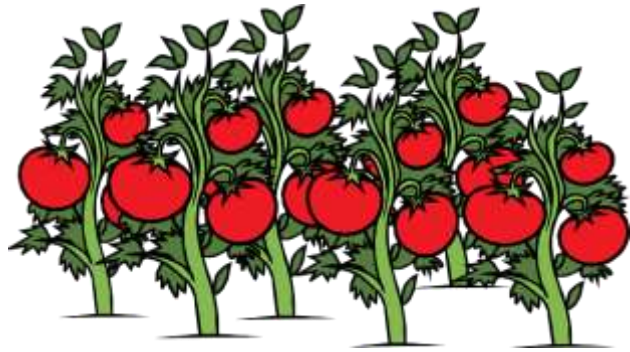
**Technology Team** – A new description of how to use the system has been developed. Efforts are still being made to recruit someone for the part time position. One new approach being made is to the Beverly Senior Center.

The next Central Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. Contact the church office or one of the Central Board members if you would like to join.

Hopefully our mild winter days will lead us into a warm spring as our thoughts turn to planting our flower and vegetable gardens. With this in mind, I will again be starting my tomato seedlings very soon . The varieties that successfully make their way in my greenhouse will be offered for adoption by the middle of May. In the past those folks interested may make a contribution to the Second Congregational Scholarship Fund.

In Next months Spire I will provide the type of plants for your consideration.

Jake Jacobson



## *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 to applicant upon request.

## Notes from the Church Mission and Social Action Committee:

Greetings. We would like to update the congregation on how the committee uses the money that is designated to assist local, national and international needs. Every month a deposit is made into our checking account that includes a percentage of the donations the church receives the previous month. We have some programs we have been helping for many years and some requests that come up during the year. The committee meets as needed either by zoom, in person or by email.

Here is a summary of the 2023 Year (January to December) income and distributions:

Checking account balance end of year 2022	\$5947
Total of church income transferred to Mission and Social Action	\$6539
Total amount distributed or used for programs:	\$9491
Checking account balance end of year 2023	\$2737

The money was used for:

### **LGBT Asylum Task Force in Worcester**

**Family Promise** sponsorship

**Recovery High School** - Thanksgiving dinners, Graduation cards and gifts, necessities

**The Casa** in Mexico Note: This is the last year we plan to send money to the Casa.

Chuck and Elaine Roy's tremendous efforts there have come to a close.

**RIP Medical Debt**

**Beverly Bootstraps**

In addition, we were given authority to distribute \$9000 from the church mission fund.

Checks were sent to :

**Family Promise** for a special fund that is used for client's needs to help them in their housing search process

**Doctors Without Borders** - We asked that the money be used especially for children in the Middle East

**Recovery High School** for gift cards to students needing help with personal expenses.

Members of the committee are Dale Miller Bouton, Kathy Taylor, Cheri Marquart, Donna Kendall, Theresa Dickson, Paulette Misins, Joyce Mosher, with input from current pastor Rev. Adam Isbitsky.


We welcome your suggestions for donation consideration or for projects that you may like to assist with.



## Pastor Adam Appears on Stage at North Shore Music Theatre


HELLO DOLLY! IS PRESENTED BY ARRANGEMENT WITH TAMS WITMARK,  
A CONCORD THEATRICALS COMPANY WWW.CONCORDTHEATRICALS.COM

APRIL  
13/14  
8:00 2:00  
Not Available before and after the performance

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Benefiting  
 Mass General Brigham  
Mass General Cancer Center

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](http://vohboston.org) — Groups of 10 or more can receive a discount if purchased together, contact Pastor Adam for details.



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Spirited Women will be meeting in the parlor after worship on April 28. Program will be announced at a later time.

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. for monthly meetings once again.