



The Spire

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

Rev. Adam Isbitsky: Legacy Pastor
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December 2024



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



“God has pulled the powerful down from their thrones and lifted up the lowly. God has filled the hungry with good things. . . .” — Luke 1

This Advent-Christmas worship series will take a look at how living in God’s economy of grace and justice is the antithesis of the life-threatening addiction to money, success, exclusion, and looking out for ourselves. The chimes of the clock-tower bells in Dickens’ classic *A Christmas Carol* provide a wake-up call for Ebenezer Scrooge and turn him from his resentment, fear, and isolation. Just as God’s presence was born anew into this world, we too can be born anew, woken up and redeemed into renewed life, joy, passion, generosity, humility, and love. Rev. Adam is adapting materials designed by Worship Design Studio based on Charles Dickens’ *A Christmas Carol* and Matt Rawle’s *The Redemption of Scrooge*. Used with permission.



December 1: Advent 1

“Bah Humbug! Making Change”

Worship with Communion

Liturgist: Ruth Moran

December 8: Advent 2

“The Remembrance of Christmas Past: Hope from Heartbreak”

Liturgist: Joyce Mosher

December 15: Advent 3

“The Life of Christmas Present: Look Upon Me”

Liturgist: Kathy Taylor

December 22: Advent 4

“The Hope of Christmas Future: Death-Defying Acts”

Liturgist: Marty Brandt

**December 24: Christmas Eve
4:00pm service**

Service with Lessons, Carols, Communion, and “Silent Night” by candlelight

“The Redemption of Scrooge: Keeping Christmas Well”

December 29: First Sunday after Christmas

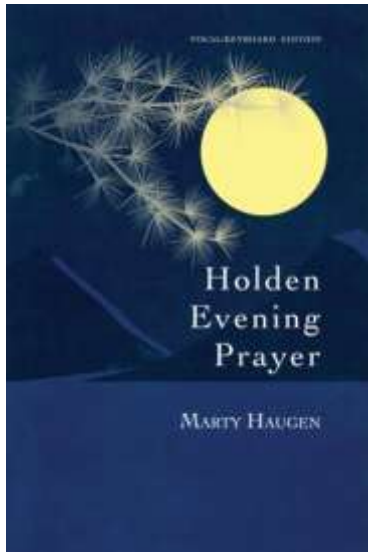
“God Bless Us, Every One!”

Liturgist: Dale Earl

Tree of Life

Christian Love & Sympathy is extended family & friends of: Paulene Jackman, who died December 1, 2023, and Doris Senfleben) Hodgden, who died January 14, 2024

The church office will be closed on Wednesday, December 25 for Christmas Day & Wednesday, January 1 for New Year’s Day. Church staff may not be available during their normal hours in the days between.



Weekly Holden Evening Prayer
Each Monday during Advent, Rev. Adam will offer the beloved “Holden Evening Prayer” service. This 30-minute service includes a sung liturgy by cherished composer Marty Haugen, time for contemplation, and communion. Come one week or all four. Dec 2, 9, 16 & 23 at 7:00pm, in-person only in the chapel.

Christmas Eve Worship Opportunities

Tuesday, December 24

11:00am: Rev. Adam leading a service at the chapel at Colonial Gardens, 105 Cherry Hill Drive

4:00pm: in the Second Church sanctuary

11:00pm: with Rev. Adam co-leading a service at First Baptist Church in Beverly, 221 Cabot St



Thank you so much for your donation of \$2,000. to Ellis Square Friends. We are a grassroots organization, powered by volunteers and funded solely through donations to help feed our hungry neighbors in Beverly. Thank you so much for your contribution to the work we do! Sincerely, Brenda Mettos

At Plummer Youth Promise, we believe that every young person deserves more than just a roof over their head—they deserve meaningful connection and the unwavering support of family. Thank you for helping to make this possible. In the three months since you've given, young adults at Plummer have gotten the keys to their first apartment, reconnected with family members after months apart, and learned independent living skills like cooking and driving.

Thank you for donating the space and money to help run our first NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Basics class. We had 10 participants and were able to give support to those families dealing with youth having mental health challenges.—Teachers, Theresa, Brian and Beverly

Thank You Jay & Lauren for once again preparing over 150 Thanksgiving meals for the community. We are grateful for you sharing your love of cooking and reaching out!

Dear Knitters, Thank you for your continued prayers for Samantha Swafford. The prayer shawl we received from you was lovely. Your love and talent we feel from it.—Sharon & Preston Swafford

Thank you Jack Terrill for all the time and effort you put in to help us manage and maintain our buildings.

Central Board News and Notes:

Rev. Adam and the Central Board discussed the upcoming Advent Season, with a common thread of “God Bless Us Everyone”. We plan to leverage our choir and handbells to augment each service and make it special. Adam will also host “Holden Evening Prayers” each Monday of Advent, where all prayers are sung.



Look for announcements of our showing of “The Muppet’s Christmas Carol” Saturday December 7th at 4pm for the community as well as SCC members. And you will find more details elsewhere of Christmas Eve services, which will find a very busy Rev Adam hosting at Colonial Gardens in the morning, leading our Second Church Family Service at 4pm, and co-leading the 11pm Christmas Vigil Service at First Baptist Beverly.

The Central Board was briefed by the Finance Team regarding the 2025 draft budget. Thanks to all who pledged and continue support as we work to finalize a proposed budget to present as the meeting calls start December 1st , ahead of the December 15 Congregational Meeting. The Central Board will host a Forward Chat after church on December 8th to review the draft budget and other items from the meeting call.

Deficit rough order of magnitude projects to be \$170k for 2025, \$100k more than 2024 projections.

The Legacy Team shared that they are making slow but steady progress in 3 areas. Historic Beverly was selected to receive and archive our records and possibly other artifacts, too, and we are still waiting for the draft MOU. Kaminski Auctions also toured the building and reviewed some of our more valuable artifacts. We await the appraisals for a few of the more valuable items updated, and will discuss with our lawyers the recommendation of an onsite auction when the time comes to dispose of other hard assets not remaining with the building after sale. Lastly, the Legacy Team and our real estate lawyer also sent what we hope is the final draft of the P&S agreement to Lifebridge attorneys. Once agreed, it will be presented to the Congregation for vote, hopefully at our December 15th meeting.

The Property team and Central Board worked to select a new cleaning service starting in December. Our part-time sexton, Brad, resigned at the end of October, as he will be fully employed with the 2 North Shore Christian School campuses since that they have moved out of Second Church. Now that NSCS has moved out and Jack Terrill has completed all the minor repairs and touch up painting in the 3rd floor office area, we expect Lifebridge administrative officers and employees will be moving in December 1st per terms of a new lease. Please consider thanking Jack Terrill in person the next time you see him, for all the time and effort he puts in to help us manage and maintain our buildings.

The Mission Team continued the tradition of hosting North Shore Recovery High students and staff for a Thanksgiving dinner celebration, which included a memorable sharing of gratitude by each student. Lauren Noonan and Jay Swallow prepared approximately 150 Thanksgiving takeout meals for November 23rd – which allowed us to continue this outreach to the largely senior citizen community that previously enjoyed our Community Bean Suppers so much over the years. We are also blessed to report that the Finance Team’s intent to hold overall Mission donations to prior year levels by balancing any shortfalls from reduced pledging with Mission Endowment resources in the proposed 2025 budget. We give thanks for the earlier generations that set up and grew the Mission Endowment for 30+ years to provide for these resources.

The next Central Board meeting will be Wednesday December 18 at 7pm via Zoom.

Contact Dale Earl or another CB member if you’d like to attend.



Recovery High School Thanksgiving November 20, 2024

Every Recovery High School Thanksgiving begins with a gratitude circle where students, staff, and visitors share their stories of gratitude, forgiveness, recovery, and hope. Although often reluctant to share their powerful stories, the students relate their journey to sobriety with humor and candor and often leave others in the circle in tears. After the circle we shared a wonderful meal of turkey, gravy, stuffing, mashed potatoes, squash, corn, and rolls and butter. The staff and students provided delicious desserts including a magnificent chocolate cake, creme brûlée, cookies, pies, and trifle. It was a meal filled with good food, good conversation, and much gratitude.

We want to thank the volunteers who helped us provide this meal for RHS.

Thanks so much to Kathy Taylor, Cheri Marquart, Donna Kendall, Joyce Mosher, Theresa Dickson, Ruth Moran, Patty Scanlan, and Dale Miller Bouton.

WALT DISNEY PICTURES
presents
JIM HENSON PRODUCTIONS'

The Muppet CHRISTMAS CAROL



Second Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
invites you to a screening of The Muppet Christmas Carol!
Experience the story of Ebenezer Scrooge's transformation
in this beloved movie adaptation of Charles Dickens' classic.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2024 4:00PM

All are welcome
35 Conant St, Beverly, MA 01915

No cost to attend
beverlysecond.com

Christmas Blossoms

Red, pink and white poinsettias will adorn the Sanctuary on December 22 and Christmas Eve. The cost per plant is \$8.

Orders will be received 'til

December 16 deadline, on

Sunday mornings or connecting with church office by phone: 978-922-5722 or: parishadmin@beverlysecond.com.

Please indicate details, if plant is in memory, honor, or a celebrative occasion.

Plants may be picked up following worship on the 22nd or Christmas Eve.



You are invited to a Forward Chat



The Central Board will host a Forward Chat after church on **December 8th** to review the draft budget and other items from the meeting call. (see page 8)

You Are Invited

Service of Celebration and Closure

**Wollaston Congregational Church's
Historic Moment: 1875–2025**



**December 15, 2024, 2:00 PM
service followed by collation**

*A special offering will be taken
for the UCC Disaster Relief Fund*

48 Winthrop Ave, Wollaston MA 02170



Due to a conflict in scheduling we will have to skip Spirited Women for the month of December. Watch for details for our next meeting to be held in January.

**Second Congregational Church
Beverly, Massachusetts**

***** OFFICIAL CALL TO MEETING *****

At the call of the Moderator, a meeting of the Second Congregational Church will be held in person and via Zoom following the worship service on Sunday, December 15, 2024. The meeting will begin at 10:30 am.

The Business of the Meeting will be:

To vote on the proposed budget for the year 2025 as recommended by the Finance Team and approved for bringing before the congregation by the Central Board.

To vote on the recommendation of the Building Our Legacy Team as approved by the Central Board to accept the Memorandum of Understanding from Historic Beverly, if available, outlining the terms and conditions under which Historic Beverly will acquire, maintain, and care for the archival collection of Second Congregational Church.

To vote on authorizing the signing of a Purchase and Sale Agreement (P&S) with Lifebridge Northshore, if available, for the purpose of selling the property at 35 Conant Street, which includes the Second Congregational Church building, land, and contents as described in the P&S.

Dale R. Earl, Clerk

(Copies of the proposed budget will be sent by email and/or the USPS to review or can be picked up after worship on December 1, 2024)

READ and POSTED ON:

Sunday, December 1, 2024 and on Sunday, December 8, 2024



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



Please join us on Sunday December 15th at 3pm in the chapel for a Blue Christmas service. For some people the Christmas season is not all merry and bright. Some are suffering grief and loss. Some are struggling with sadness or depression. Some are lonely. And so we offer the " Blue Christmas Service." .

Some people would just like a time apart to be in a contemplative space even for just a brief time. All are welcome no matter whether you are filled with joy, or whether you are just slogging your way through the season.

Please join us in the chapel as we pray, listen to poetry, reflect, and enjoy time with one another and with God in a candle lit and peaceful space.

I look forward to being with you, Wendy