



The Spire

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

Rev. Adam Isbitsky: Legacy Pastor
Music Director: Marshunda Smith

Phone: 978.922.5722

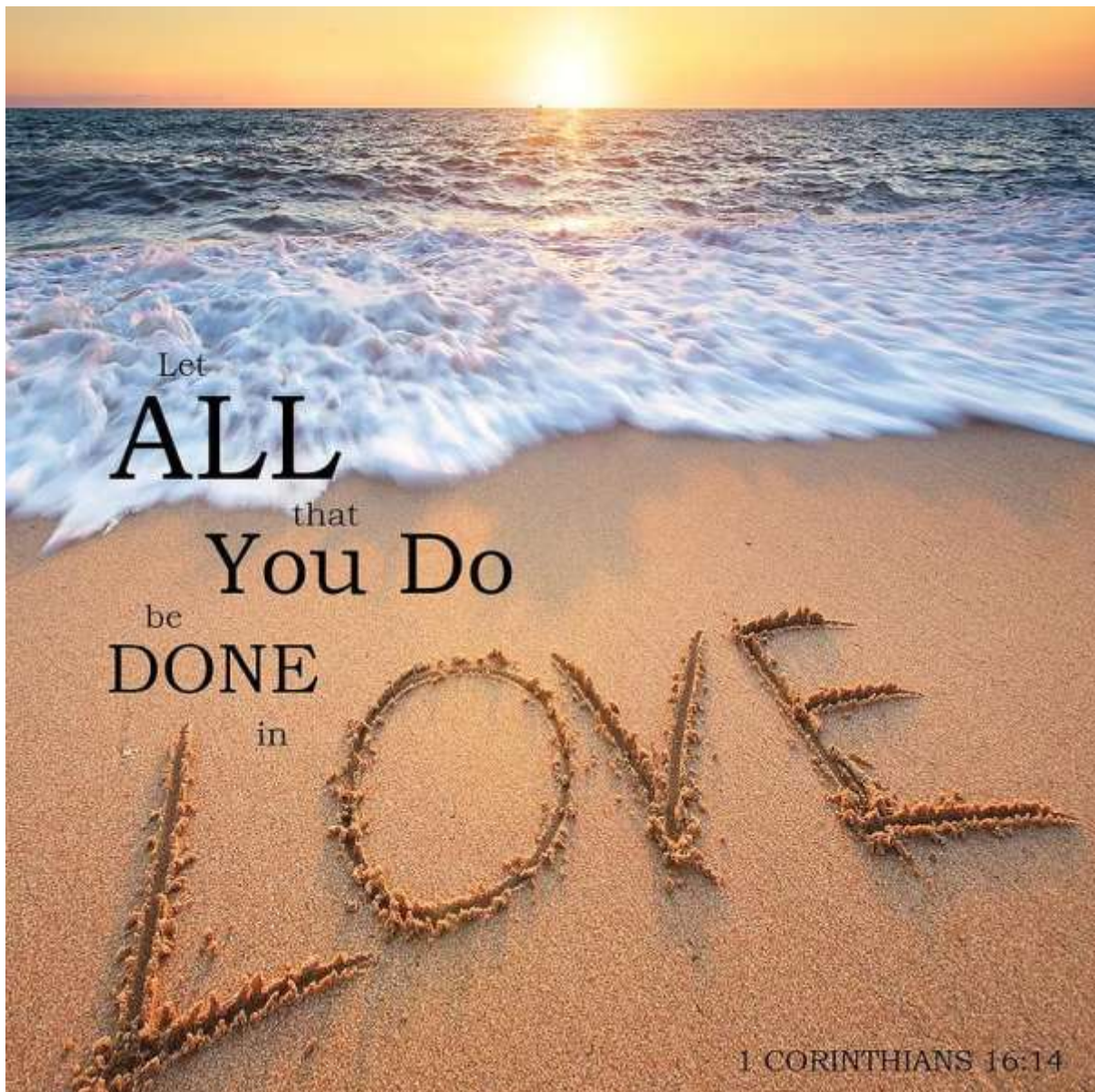
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July & August 2024



~July/August/Beginning of
September Worship~
Second Congregational
United Church of Christ
Sunday – 9:30 a.m.

Sunday, July 7

Worship with Communion

Reading: The Letter to Philemon
Rev. Adam preaching: “Usefulness”
Liturgist: Donna Kendall

Sunday, July 14

Reading: Psalm 23
Rev. Adam leading a Group Reflection
Liturgist: Cheri Marquart

Sunday, July 21

Reading: Jonah, the Whole Megillah
Rev. Adam preaching:
“Unfinished Business”
Liturgist: Doug Marquart

Sunday, July 28

Chaplain Wendy Linares preaching
Liturgist: Peggie Morris



August 4

Reading: Acts 2:43-47;
Matthew 13:1-9,18-23
Michael Fiorentino preaching: “What Seeds
and Who Is Sowing Them?”
Liturgist: Dale Miller Bouton

**August 11 *Interfaith Worship at Lynch
Park at 10a.m.***

Rev. Adam participating.
Bring lawn chair/blanket for seating.
Free parking for Worship attendees.
No worship at Second Church.

August 18

Worship with Communion
Reading: Ecclesiastes 1:12–2:26
Rev. Adam preaching: “Wisdom or
Depression?”
Liturgist: Ruth Moran

August 25

Reading: Ecclesiastes 5:8-20
Rev. Adam preaching: “Witnessing Injus-
tice”
Liturgist: Joyce Mosher



Light of the World

During July the Church Spire will be lit in loving memory of **Jim Shute** by his wife, Jane Shute. And, in August the Spire will be illumined in loving memory of **Brooks Nichols** by his wife, Susan Nichols.



Tree of Life

Congrats & Best Wishes are extended to **Nils Taylor** (grandson to Kathy Taylor), who recently graduated from Colby College with Distinction.

Thank You

Friends at SCC: On behalf of the Northeast Association (NEA) Board of Directors, please accept this note of thanks for your generous donation of \$100.00 to our general fund, which was received on June 17, 2024. All gifts to our association support ministries and programs right here in our corner of Massachusetts. What we do together in covenant is more than we can do in our local churches, and this gift helps make that real. (Rev. Adam Isbitsky, Treasurer NEA)



Thank you so much for the donation to Elevate from the church Social Action committee . On behalf of our Board, staff and students, please convey my appreciation to the church and the committee decision makers. Our work is more important now than ever - with the murder of one of our students earlier this month. We are in the right place doing the right thing and a lot of young people are developing lives that are going to thrive.

Jim Pocock -
President, Elevate New England
www.elevatenewengland.org

FINDING CLOSURE

Issue 2: “Completion, Not Failure”

Most of us—probably all of us, except me—can say that we didn’t become part of Second Church to help its ministries come to an end. And yet, here we are. For those of you who have been part of the church for a long time, it might feel like this is a failure. And for those of you who have been part of the church for many generations, it might feel like you’re letting your parents or grandparents down. If you feel that way, it’s ok. This whole thing is really, really hard. It’s normal to feel grief, because there is a lot of loss in this process. But, my friends, I ask you not to think of the end of a church’s ministry as a failure. Because it’s not and you’re not! Second Church has done so much good over so many years, so many generations, that its ministry can really only be described as a success.

The ending of ministry is not a failure. Let me share an image that is often shared by church legacy specialist Charlie Kuchenbrod: picture a thriving forest. When you walk through a healthy forest, what is there? what do you see? what do you smell? There will be tall, growing trees and new saplings just getting started in life. But for those trees to thrive, there must also be many fallen trees, decomposing, making space, and creating nutrients for the next generation of trees to thrive. Think of this process in the same way with our church. The churches named in Paul’s letters in the Bible aren’t still active congregations, but the stories we have learned from them continue to inspire new churches to this day and will into the future. It will be that way with our church, too.

Rev. Adam Isbitsky, Legacy Pastor
Second Congregational Church, Beverly, MA, UCC
cell: 978-473-7288 revadam@beverlysecond.com

Rev. Adam will be on vacation from Monday, July 22 through Sunday, August 4. If you have a pastoral emergency, please call or email the church office and we will connect you with the covering pastor.

Central Board News and Notes:

The Central Board met June 19. Per congregational voting and May 2024's Annual Meeting, the **Central Board recognized re-elected members Dale Earl, Jack Terrill and Nancy Koch to their new 3 year terms.** Dale Earl will continue as chair, and Doug Marquart as secretary. Many thanks to Dale, Jack and Nancy on the last 3 year's of faithful service to SCC and for agreeing to continue on doing the important work ahead as Second Church works through our Legacy stage. Rev. Adam and the Central Board discussed Summer worship plans, noting his vacation July 22-August 4.

July 7th - Communion Service;

- July 14th and 21st regular Sunday service
- July 28th - Wendy Linares will lead services
- August 4th will be a Prayer service; Adam will look for a lay volunteer to lead
- August 11th will be the ecumenical Homecoming Service at Lynch Park
- August 18th Communion Service at Second Church;
- August 25th regular Sunday service
- September 1st – Communion Service
- September 8th – Sunday One

Watch for weekly E-news updates for possible changes and further information.

Building Our Legacy Team Update – the Central Board expressed gratitude for the **June 9 Forward Chat led by the Legacy Team**, noting many good questions and lots of good discussion during the information exchange. The Annual Meeting included a successful vote to authorize an additional \$40K for LT expenses, primarily legal, accounting and other needed services anticipated, which was appreciated.

Jack reported that our lawyers met again with Jon Green, Director of the Attorney General's Office of Charities this month. The intent is to better understand the AG's position on our proposed future sale plan. Our meetings with lawyers advising SCC continues monthly, and we hope to have more detailed information to share late summer/early fall.

Investment Portfolio - The Finance Team is working to liquidate our prior investments and reinvest to a combination of a CD ladder and money market funds, as approved at the May Annual Meeting. Pledges continue to come in per plan and our overall expenses are close to budget projections as well.

Mission Team – the Mission Team approved a number of gifts at their last meeting, allowing our congregational support to deserving groups to go out earlier this year than last. A subset of the CB and Mission Team will meet in July to confirm plans for the rest of 2024.

The next Central Board meeting will be Wednesday July 17 at 7pm.

FORWARD CHAT – June 9, 2024 – Building Our Legacy Team Updates



This quarter's Forward Chat was hosted by the Building Our Legacy Team (Team). The Team had provided an update at the May Annual Meeting but wanted to provide further information through the Forward Chat.

The update was presented in three topics: a report on a Beverly community forum entitled "The Changing Face of Homelessness"; a report on a project to archive our church records; and an update on the progress the Team has made.

The Changing Face of Homelessness

Several members of the Team and congregation attended the forum held May 7 at the First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church Beverly. It was an opportunity to hear about homelessness occurring in Beverly. The presenters were primarily from Lifebridge North Shore including River House and Family Promise North Shore. Each presenter focused on different aspects of homelessness and the services available or not available. These included the issues occurring in downtown Beverly that churches and businesses were seeing. What was occurring in surrounding towns such as Salem, the causes of homelessness and the growing number of seniors finding themselves homeless. Especially compelling was the report from the Program Director of River House on the need for women's shelters and services.

Archiving Your Church Records

A couple members of the Team attended a "Lunch and Learn" hosted by the Southern New England Conference and was presented by the Congregational Library and Archives (CLA), an organization in Boston. They encouraged records management be done earlier in the process. Proper organization and control can protect a church's past, preserve the present and prepare for the future. Our records include just about everything such as: meeting minutes, annual reports, vital records, ministerial records, financial records, building records, photographs, legal records, directories and bulletins. It could be paper, photographs, computer disks, video tapes, etc.

The director and an archivist of the CLA met with Adam and Dale and reviewed our records. There were many folders of materials kept in several file cabinets both in the office and the back hall. We also found out that many older records are already being kept at the Beverly Historical Society. The CLA was complimentary of how the records are organized and kept. At the conclusion of the meeting, CLA was asked to prepare a proposal, with costs, to archive our records. That proposal is expected for our next Team meeting on July 2.

Progress to Date

Jack Terrill, Chair of the Team, reported on recent events. At the Annual Meeting he had told the attendees that a letter from our attorneys and the Lifebridge Letter of Intent had been sent to the Division of Public Charities of the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office. The intent was to get their impression of what we have proposed. At the Annual Meeting it was reported that there were three possible outcomes: 1. The Division may have no objections; 2. The Division might agree that the proposed transaction is in the public interest but take the position that court approval is also required under Massachusetts law; or 3. The Division could have objections to the proposed sale.

The Team has asked our attorneys to seek more information from the Division and to provide guidance on our next steps.

Jack Terrill, Chair

Building Our Legacy Team

Congratulations to this year's
Scholarship recipients!



Four of our six scholarship recipients and their families joined us for worship on June 8th. Those who came are pictured here (from left to right): Allison O'Keefe, Maria Braga, Mia Bilotti, and Samantha Fay. Two Danvers graduates are on the outside of the photo and two in the middle from Beverly!



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Will be taking a break through the summer.

Watch for return date in the September Newsletter.