



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

Fax: 978.922.3064

Email: parishadmin@beverlysecond.com

Web site: www.BeverlySecond.com

www.facebook.com/BeverlySecond

September 2024



TO HOPE AND ACT WITH CREATION

SEASON OF CREATION 2024

The firstfruits of hope

(Rom 8:19-25)

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

September 1

First Sunday in Creation
Romans 8:18-25
Rev Adam preaching: “Breathe and Push,
or Spirit In, Spirit Out”
Liturgist: Ruth Moran

September 8

Sunday One: bring a friend!
Second Sunday in Creation
Worship with Communion
Isaiah 40:27-31 & Micah 7:1-4,7
Rev Adam preaching: “Remember”
Liturgist: Marty Brandt

September 15

Third Sunday in Creation
Worship with Baptism
Acts 2:37-47
Rev Adam preaching: “De-Growth and
Humility on a Finite Planet”
Liturgist: Dale Earl



September 22

Fourth Sunday in Creation
Matthew 9:35–10:1,5,8
Rev Adam preaching: “Yeah, But That
Was Them”
Liturgist: Jack Terrill

September 29

Fifth Sunday in Creation
Worship with Baptism
Luke 12:22-32
Rev Adam preaching:
“Adjusting Our Focus”
Liturgist: Gail Goodell



TREE OF LIFE

Christian Sympathy & Love is extended
to family and friends of our former
minister 1974-1979, **Rev. J. Yorke
Peeler, Jr.**, who died on August 25.

Rev. Peeler and the Chaplain at Beverly
Hospital were instrumental in bringing
Hospice care to the North Shore area.

Thank You Second Church



2024 Scholarship Recipients

Thank you so much for your generous scholarship and consideration of my application. I am so grateful; your generosity will help me greatly at Boston College. Also, thank you for inviting me to one of your Sunday services. I had a great time and felt so honored.

Sincerely, Mia Bilotti

Thank you so much for your generosity with your scholarship program; as well as your gracious invite to join your service. I am truly grateful that I was able to be part of your service and community.

Thank you so much!

Sincerely, Allison O'Keefe

I am writing to express my sincere gratitude to be the recipient of the 2024 Second Congregational Church scholarship for the upcoming year at University of New Hampshire. Thank you again for your kindness and support in my future.

Gratefully yours, Abigail Shipp

Mission Outreach Programs

Thank you for believing in the passionate work of the United Church of Christ, with a generous donation of \$722.00 to One Great Hour of Sharing. Your gift will help our neighbors in the United States and internationally recover from disasters. Working with international partners, we provide refugees and displaced persons with sources of clean water, food, education, health care, small business micro-credit, advocacy, and resettlement. We also assist with emergency relief and rehabilitation. Your partnership makes these and other services and programs possible.

Thank you for your generous support of \$2,000 to Strengthen the Church offering. Your contribution is key in empowering many transformational programs, such as Confirmation retreats, Our Whole Lives and Safe Congregation trainings, and faith development programs for children, youth, and adults across the Southern New England Conference in Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island. These initiatives profoundly impact the lives of our member congregations and their communities.



FINDING CLOSURE

Today I want to begin with a focus Bible verse, from one of the minor prophets, Habakkuk. This is a short book, only three chapters long. Early on, Habakkuk stands and waits for a vision from God. And Habakkuk hears God say, as Eugene Peterson's *The Message* Bible paraphrase puts it,

Write this.

Write what you see.

Write it out in big block letters

so that it can be read on the run.

This vision-message is a witness

pointing to what's coming.

It aches for the coming—it can hardly wait!

And it doesn't lie.

If it seems slow in coming, wait.

It's on its way. It will come right on time.

(Habakkuk 2:2-3 MSG)

In the last issue, I shared how we were in a “hurry up and wait” phase. Over the next several weeks, we are going to feel a shift to writing this vision of our legacy together. I invite you to be active in forward chats and congregational meetings as they come up.

As we write our vision, let's take the advice we read in Habakkuk: let's make the vision as simple and easy to understand as possible. Let's make it big too, so that others will see and feel its impact. And let's be patient as we do it too, because God's timeline is usually slower than we like it to be. But even when it does feel slow, let's know that it will ultimately be right on time. Our first Forward Chat is on September 15. I'll see you there!

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

Central Board News and Notes:

The Central Board met July 17th and August 21st as announced in church and weekly E-News.

Rev. Adam and the Central Board discussed Fall worship plans, which will include a new liturgical season on Creation from September 1st through October 6th.

Please plan to attend **Sunday One, September 8th** if you are able, and continue to watch for weekly E-news updates for possible changes and further information, like the **Blessing of the Animals service** that is now in queue for early October.

The Central Board received an update from the Building Our Legacy Team at both summer meetings. They continue to work developing SCC's Archiving Records plan, and met with lawyers to understand how we might go about disposing of our Hard Assets (e.g. church silver, furniture etc.) and Financial Assets, as well as our building and property. The Legacy Team plans to host a Forward Chat September 15, and you can find additional details elsewhere in the Spire.

North Shore Christian School's move to the Gordon College Campus has hit a few snags, so they will be starting the school year at Second Church. NSCS Staff is unpacking supplies needed for at least the first 2 months of school, and they are renting a couple of storage PODs you may notice in the parking lot to store other material till they have all approvals needed to move. The PODs will include boxes currently in the parlor that aren't needed immediately.

North Shore Recovery High Outreach – you may have noticed over the summer that Recovery High rented lower parish hall and other space for summer sessions on weekdays while their current building underwent asbestos remediation. As we continue our community outreach supporting Recovery High, Rev Adam has agreed to consult on a curriculum module as they explore the impact of different religions on Massachusetts' development, possibly including field trips.

Investment Portfolio/Finance - The Finance Team completed liquidation of our prior investments over the summer and reinvested our assets into a combination of a CD ladder and money market funds, as approved at the May Annual Meeting. Thanks to David Varga for his efforts in simplifying SCC finances as our time horizon shortens. Pledges are a little behind our budget, which we expect will catch up as summer travel season winds down. The team has also made progress streamlining budget accounts including closing several that are no longer needed.

The lift passed state inspection, and during the same visit, our contractor Interstate adjusted the door timer to close with a shorter delay. When you see Jack Terrill and Mary Jane Clark, please thank them for this and all their efforts that go into managing our building needs.

The next Central Board meeting will be Wednesday September 18 at 7pm via Zoom.
Contact Dale Earl or another CB member if you'd like to attend.



Building Our Legacy Team
Forward Chat – September 15, 2024
after the Church Service

The Building Our Legacy Team invites you to a Forward Chat to provide some updates on the transition process. The Team plans to provide information on:

- The Draft Purchase and Sale Agreement – sets the terms for the sale of the building
- Disposition of Hard Assets – the inventory of things around the church which includes silver, artwork, bibles/hymnals, sheet music, furniture, etc.
- Financial Assets – what do we have in our endowment accounts and other accounts?
- Dissolution – what is it and what happens?
- Future Congregational meetings and timeline – sale of building and property

There will be a presentation, but please come with your questions. We look forward to seeing you that day.

Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, Oct 6, 2024 3:00 pm

Second Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
35 Conant St, Beverly, MA beverlysecond.com

*bring an animal or
their photo to be
blessed!*

*animals of all kinds,
sizes, and beliefs
welcome!*



Walk to End Homelessness 2024:

Join us on October 27, 2024 at 8:30 AM

Mark your calendars for our **11th Annual Walk to End Homelessness!** This year, we hope to make it our most successful walk yet. Join us for a morning stroll through downtown Beverly as we demonstrate our commitment to supporting families and ending homelessness across the North Shore. [REGISTER TODAY and help us reach our goal of \\$40,000!](#)



The Healing Power of Music: Comfort and Hope During Transitions

As we embark on what may be our final season, we are reminded of the profound role music has played in our church community. Over the years, our hymns and anthems have not only uplifted our spirits but also offered solace during challenging times. Music has been a source of comfort and hope, resonating deeply with our shared experiences and fostering a sense of unity and peace.



This year, we invite you to join us in celebrating the legacy of our church's musical journey. By becoming a part of our choir, you will not only fill our choir with a varied tapestry of vocal tones, you have the opportunity to contribute to this rich tradition and help fill our sanctuary with the healing and hopeful sounds that have defined our worship. Your voice can be a part of this meaningful transition, bringing both support and inspiration to our congregation.

Our rehearsals take place on Sunday mornings at 8:30 AM, providing a dedicated time for us to come together and prepare for the services ahead. This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with fellow members, share in the joy of music-making, and contribute to the final chapters of our church's musical history. No prior choir experience is necessary—just a love for music and a willingness to join in.

We encourage you to embrace this invitation and be a part of our final season. Let us come together in song, reflecting on the comfort and hope that music has brought to our lives and ensuring that our final year is filled with the same spirit of unity and grace that has always defined us. Your participation will help create lasting memories and continue our tradition of musical excellence and community.

Please reach out to me, your Music Director at marshunda@gmail.com. I look forward to hearing from you all!

Marshunda Smith, Creative Director & Consultant



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SPIRITED WOMEN GATHERING

Next meeting will be on Sept. 22 following worship. We will meet in the parlor after worship and will conclude the program by noon.

The program will be announced soon, but do plan to join us ! All women in the church are welcome to come to any of the monthly meetings. It's a great time of fellowship and we would love to have you join us!

Hope to see you there! Warmly, Wendy