



The Spire

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

Rev. Adam Isbitsky: Legacy Pastor
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October 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.**

October 6

World Communion Sunday

Ephesians 4:1-13

Rev. Adam preaching, “One and All”

Liturgist: Nancy Koch

October 13

Recognizing and Celebrating Indigenous Peoples

John 17:1-26 First Nations Version

Rev. Adam preaching, “Beautifully Joined Together as One”

Liturgist: Suzanne Munroe

October 20

Vote with Love, A Service for USA Election Season 2024

Psalms 119:113-120 IB & Mark 12:28-34

Rev. Adam preaching, “Voting as Public Transit”

Liturgist: Glenn Morris

October 27

Pastor Adam away

Wendy Linares leading worship

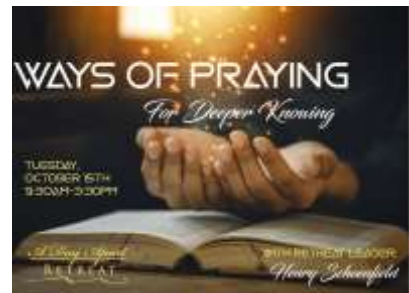
Followed by Spirited Women gathering

Liturgist: Donna Kendall



TREE OF LIFE

A Warm Welcome into God’s Family is extended to: **Jakari Burgess Sainterling** (child of Kaylee Burgess & Jazayah Sainterling), baptized on September 22, and to **Thomas William Koulouris** (child of Kerri & William Koulouris), baptized on September 29.



Ways of Praying for Deeper Knowing
*October 15 9:30–3:00 at Rolling Ridge,
North Andover*

Experience this day apart retreat with Rev. Henry Schoenfield, a trained spiritual director and pastor. On this retreat, we will be immersed in the practices of chanting, Centering Prayer, and Sacred Movement as an opening not only to the felt presence of the Divine in all of creation, but also as an opening to the Divine within each of us. Participants will come away with a new understanding of themselves and possible ways to deepen their life in God.

For more information & to register:
<https://www.rollingridge.org/event/ways-of-praying-for-deeper-knowing-18412756>

For scholarships, see Rev. Adam

October Committee Meetings

To attend a committee meeting, please see Rev. Adam or the chair for the Zoom information

Thu 10/10, 7:00pm: Mission & Social Action Team meeting (Zoom)

Wed 10/16, 6:00pm: Finance Team meeting (Zoom)

Wed 10/16, 7:00pm: Central Board meeting (Zoom)

Tue 10/29, 7:00pm: Building Our Legacy Team meeting (Zoom)



Northeast Association Events

We gather with fellow churches to install newly called pastors. All are welcome to attend these festive occasions!

Sunday, 10/6 at 2:00pm installing Rev. Ellie Richardson as Pastor of Christ Church United, Dracut

Sunday, 10/20 at 3:00pm installing Rev. Bill Ladd as Pastor of First Congregational Church in Saugus

Sunday, 10/27 at 3:00pm installing Rev. Lindsay Popperson as Senior Minister of Old North Church in Marblehead

Please also mark your calendars for the Northeast Association Music Festival on Sunday, 11/3 at 3:00pm at First Church in Swampscott

Election Prayer Vigils

Join together with neighbors and the wider community as we pray for a smooth national election process and for peace and calm after the election.

Sunday, 11/3, 6:00pm at West Parish Church, UCC, in Andover

Monday, 11/4, 6:00pm at Second Congregational Church, UCC, in Beverly



Pastor Adam Vacation

Adam will be on vacation from Wednesday, October 23 to Tuesday, October 29. If there is a pastoral emergency during that time, please contact the office. Rev. Wendy Linares will lead worship on Sunday, October 27.

Central Board News and Notes:

The Central Board met September 18. Rev. Adam offered that the Forward Chat went well, and the Legacy Team did a good job. There was active participation by the congregation. That we are back into the regular routine for worship. After the September 29 worship he will be conducting a Forward Chat on “Climate Hope” continuing the liturgical season of Creation of the past several weeks. On October 6, there will be a blessing of the animals with First Baptist Church, Beverly joining us. On October 17 he is leading a book discussion on “Gone for Good?” This book is focused on church properties transition and has essays by 17 different authors. Rev. Adam will be leading a Forward Chat on October 20 on “Voting Anxiety”.

Finance Team Update - The Finance Team is looking to streamline financial reporting by having all aspects of the Treasurer’s Report in Church Windows. They reported that there will be a Stewardship Campaign, with a letter going out mid-October seeking pledges for 2025. It will follow up on a question asked at the Forward Chat, the letter will focus on “Why Pledge?”. Along with the Stewardship Campaign, the team will begin drafting the 2025 budget, including asking other teams and staff for input.

Building Our Legacy Team Update – Jack reported on the Forward Chat that was held on September 15. The topics included archiving, the purchase and sale agreement, hard assets, financial assets, dissolution and the expected congregational meetings that will occur. The Legacy Team voted to recommend to the CB that Historic Beverly be chosen as the organization to do the archiving. The CB approved the recommendation. The next step is for Historic Beverly to prepare a Memorandum of Understanding and to come to an agreement on expected costs for digitizing. Once this is done, it will be presented to the congregation for approval. The Legacy Team has been providing comments to our attorneys on the Draft Purchase and Sale Agreement. The Team has notified the attorneys that it has no further comments and believe as a next step it should go to Lifebridge and its attorney for their review.

Property Team / Building Use Update: Jack reported that the North Shore Christian School has started the school year in Second Church. They are expecting to move to Gordon College by October 20. The storage containers in the parking lot have been filled with boxes of materials to be moved to the campus. Packed boxes from the parlor and upper hall were moved to the containers freeing up those spaces. They unpacked what they needed to continue operations as Second Church. Jack also reported that a plumbing issue was repaired. The main pipe from the boilers was leaking in the table and chair room. It was a two-day repair costing approximately \$4500.

The next Central Board meeting will be Wednesday October 16 at 7pm.

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!*



Family Promise's Walk to End Homelessness 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!](#)



FORWARD CHAT – Building Our Legacy Team

After church on September 15, the Building Our Legacy Team hosted a Forward Chat to update church members on progress made and to inform them of upcoming actions that the congregation will be involved with.



Jack Terrill, Chair of the Team provided an overview and that Team would provide updates on **Archiving**, a **Purchase and Sale Agreement**, **Disposition of Hard Assets**, **Financial Assets** and the **Dissolution** process. Following each topic, a sample of the questions received and answers provided are listed.

Dale Earl provided an update on the **Archiving** project reporting that the Team received two proposals for archiving our church records. These were from the Congregational Library and Archives in Boston and Historic Beverly, the new name for the Beverly Historical Society. Both groups would come to Beverly to box up our records and both would provide online access to the documents once digitized, or by visiting in person. The Congregational Library would be looking for paper documents, digital documents and photographs and would digitize the documents and photos and provide secure storage. Historic Beverly is interested in everything including documents, photos, digital records, objects such as our silver and artwork. They have renovated their facility to provide safer and more secure storage. Once received, objects could be loaned out. The Team will make a recommendation on which organization to the Central Board and will likely need to come to the Congregation for release of the funds if over \$10,000.

Jack provided an update on the **Draft Purchase and Sale Agreement**. This is a major step for both the church and Lifebridge as it is the formal contract between the groups. The agreement sets out the terms and conditions for the sale of the building and property. The Team has been providing comments to our attorneys and the next step is for our attorneys to forward it to Lifebridge for their review. After agreement with Lifebridge, the Team will share a summary with the Congregation and seek approval at a Congregational Meeting.

Question: Is Family Promise mentioned? **Answer:** They will be a tenant, not the buyer. They will work to create an agreement between Lifebridge and Family Promise.

Question: What does Lifebridge intend to do with the building? **Answer:** They envision a Day Center to provide a variety of services, not an overnight shelter. Sanctuary will be preserved as is. This will be the subject of community meetings.

Dale Miller-Bouton presented information on **Disposition of Hard Assets**. The church has a number of hard assets or objects that we will need to decide what to do with. It is everything that is not physically attached to the building. She reminded everyone that the church's property belongs to the church. Even if a particular item was donated by a certain person or family, they do not have a special claim to it and it cannot be just given back to them. Some examples of hard assets with measurable value include the organ, pianos, musical instruments, choir robes, furniture, artwork, silver, audio visual equipment, china (250 sets), communion ware and bibles/hymnals. In addition, there are other items that may not have much monetary value, such as sheet music, items used in worship and decoration, and office supplies. Items will need to be distributed by either: 1) sale; 2) a gift to other charitable organizations; 3) trash or recycle; or 4) leave in place (which would become property of the building buyer).

Depending on the value of a particular item and where we plan for it to go, we may need to wait for final state approval before transferring the item. The Team is looking at the various options and working with our attorneys, will propose how we will distribute the assets and will request a Congregational Meeting seeking approval of the distribution.

Question: Will the congregation be able to get items? **Answer:** Yes, likely through a estate style auction.

Question: Where will the proceeds of the sale go? **Answer:** They will be included in the cash to be distributed.

Peg Round reported on our **Financial Assets**. There is currently over \$1.4 million in our various accounts. She reminded everyone that as voted on at the May annual meeting, the funds which had been invested in the stock market were sold and that money was placed in a series of Certificates of Deposit and a Money Market account. The Money Market will receive funds from various money-making activities (such as sales of objects, rents, building use) and will provide the operating funds to run the church. We will likely want to remove restrictions on other restricted funds and expect that we will need the congregation's votes on some of those. We expect that is likely to happen at the same time as our regular budget meeting in December

The funds will eventually have to be disbursed to other charitable organizations. The fewer restrictions that are in place, the easier it will be to transfer the funds. The recipient organizations and the specific amounts will be proposed to the congregation for its approval and then be part of the submission package to the Commonwealth.

Question: What about the scholarship funds? **Answer:** They are restricted, and the congregation can vote to keep that designation and find an organization to receive the funds for scholarships.

Jack explained the **Dissolution** process. That it was a multi-step process resulting in the ending of worship and all non-essential operations of the church. It is specified in the church Bylaws and begins with the Central Board. Much of what is required has already started. We have hired attorneys to advise us and have started consulting with the Massachusetts Office of the Attorney General. There will be a Special Congregational Meeting where a vote is taken to dissolve requiring a two-thirds majority vote of the active members of the congregation assembled. The vote will determine the entities to receive the church assets (building, property, financial assets. None of the assets may be transferred to any individual. The vote can set a future date for dissolution.

Once taken, a Petition for Dissolution is filed with the Attorney General's Office which explains why the church is dissolving. It includes all supporting documents and provides a 3-year lookback on financials. Once filed, the only expenses that can be paid are dissolution related expenses (legal, accounting) and any operating expenses (insurance, building maintenance, salaries). It is likely that this will go up to the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court which will have a separate dissolution package.



Question: Why do we need a 2025 budget if we are dissolving? **Answer:** For 2025 the church continues to function and will have some revenue coming in and payments going out. This will continue until the dissolution vote. Then, only essential functions will continue. Families will be asked to pledge as part of the Stewardship Campaign.

Question: How long will the dissolution process take? **Answer:** We can only control our actions, and their timing. Once the dissolution petition has gone forward to the Massachusetts Office of the Attorney General and the court, it is subject to their timeframes.

Jack summarized by talking about future Congregational Meetings: 1) to possibly provide funding for archiving; 2) to receive and approve the Purchase and Sale Agreement; 3) to receive and approve the process to deal with hard assets; 4) to receive and approve the unrestricting of funds; 5) to receive and approve the distribution of financial assets; and 6) to receive and approve the Petition for Dissolution at a Special Congregational Meeting. Some of these meetings will occur in the next three months (archiving, purchase and sale agreement, hard assets and maybe unrestricting funds). The remaining could occur in the months after that.

Submitted by Jack Terrill



Forward Chat: “Our Faith, Our Vote” in the 2024 Election—October 20th

Rev. Adam invites all to stay after worship on 10/20 to talk about how faith and elections intersect and to address the anxiety and fear surrounding this election. You can ask about the UCC’s historical stances of various issues and take home materials if you like. Since Rev. Adam is also an elections worker, he will also share briefly the nuts and bolts of how elections work. There will also be an opportunity to register to vote or check your registration status.



Marshunda's got something special for you!

Don't miss the next Cherry Hill performance—fun, surprises, and unforgettable music!

*October 13—2:00 pm—Beverly
The Cherry Hill Chamber Orchestra*



The Cherry Hill Chamber Orchestra, led by Marshunda, offers unique classical music performances featuring lesser-known compositions and fresh insights on familiar pieces. Our concerts combine storytelling, comedy, and audience participation, creating an engaging experience. Now performing in the NorthShore/Beverly and Merrimack/Lowell areas.

Grab your tickets now: <https://mcsms.io/L81pzN>

Home for Music Library

As part of our legacy journey, we are beginning to donate pieces from our library of choir and handbell music to area churches and community music organizations.

As mentioned during the Forward Chat, we are not able to donate items to individuals—only to charitable organizations. However, we'd love to give you, our church family, a chance to purchase any pieces that hold a special place in your heart. We're suggesting a price of \$1 per copy for any music you wish to keep.

If you would like to purchase pieces or if you know of a church or other nonprofit that might be interested in "shopping" the music library for donations, please make an appointment with Music Director Marshunda Smith so we can keep careful track of all pieces





A free course for parents and family caregivers of children and adolescents with emotional or behavioral issues.



NAMI Basics provides critical strategies for taking care of your child and learning the ropes of recovery.

Participants will learn communication tips, how to problem-solve, and the skills to help them cope with the emotional impact of caring for their child.

The group setting provides mutual support and shared positive impact.

The teachers are trained by NAMI and are parents of children with similar concerns.

REGISTER FOR THE FALL 2024 COURSE:

Meets in person in Beverly

Starts October 15, last class on 11/19, 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm

<https://namimass.regfox.com/nami-basics-october-15-2024>



Class registration

NAMI BASICS COVERS

- Managing crises, solving problems, and communicating effectively
- How to take care of yourself and handle stress
- Developing the confidence and stamina to support your child with compassion
- Advocating for your child's rights at school and in health care settings
- Learning about current treatments, including evidence-based therapies, medications, and side effects
- Gaining an overview of the public mental health care, school, and juvenile justice systems and supporting resources to help you navigate these systems
- Understanding the challenges and impact of mental health conditions on your entire family

If you have further question contact Theresa Dickson @ theresaldickson@gmail.com

She will be one of the teachers for this course.

ONLINE BOOK DISCUSSION:
THU OCT 17, 7:00–8:30PM ET

GONE FOR GOOD?



***Negotiating the Coming Wave
of Church Property Transition***
Edited by Mark Elsdon

A conference-wide book
discussion led by Rev. Adam,
register directly with him

Names of Departed Saints

All Saint's Day will be recognized on Sunday, 11/3 during worship. We invite you to share names of your loved ones who have died in the last year to have their names read aloud. Please submit those names to Mary Jane in the office, so we can include them in the bulletin for that day.





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



SPIRITED WOMEN GATHERING

Next meeting will be on October 27th 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