



The Spire

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

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June 2024



Happy June

As you celebrate the blessing of June

May you also celebrate the gift of God's

Love for You!

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

Sunday, June 2

2nd Sunday after Pentecost
Worship with Communion
Letter to the Colossians 4:10-17
Rev Adam preaching: “Co-respondents”
Liturgist: Jack Terrill

Sunday, June 9

3rd Sunday after Pentecost
Ruth: The Whole Megillah
Rev Adam reflecting on each chapter
Liturgist: Nancy Koch

Sunday, June 16

4th Sunday after Pentecost
Lessons from Juneteenth
Exodus 2:11-25
Rev Adam preaching: “My People”
Liturgist: Gail Goodell

Sunday, June 23

5th Sunday after Pentecost
Open & Affirming Sunday
Daniel 3, selected verses
Rev Adam preaching: “Fire-Tested Faith”
Liturgist: Suzanne Munroe

Sunday, June 30

6th Sunday after Pentecost
Rev Adam leads a group reflection on The First
Letter of Peter 2:4-10
Liturgist: Glenn Morris



Tree of Life

Blessings to our sexton, Brad Ramsdell, who welcomed his first grandchild, granddaughter Keira Elise, into the world on May 7. Baby and mom are doing well.

Christian Love & Sympathy is extended to family and friends of *Bobbie Horne*, who died on May 1.

Congratulations & God's Blessings are extended to members of the *Class of 2024*. Second Church lifts you up in prayer and asks for **God's continued guidance and care for you as you travel along life's way.**



LIGHT OF THE WORLD

The Church Spire will be lit in loving memory of *Jean & Stanley Holiday* by their daughter Jan (Holiday) Allen.

TIME CHANGE

Evelyn Moser's Graveside Service will be conducted by Wendy Linares on Friday, June 7, at 11:15am in the North Beverly Cemetery (behind the church). Reception follows in fellowship hall.

FINDING CLOSURE

As we continue our legacy journey, I would like to begin a newsletter series that I'm calling *Finding Closure*. In this series I'll share some thoughts on where we are, provide some framing for our future thinking, and help us to widen our perspective on what we are doing.

Now that you have known me for a few months, you probably know that I like plays on words, so the title has multiple meanings. In one sense, our path as a church is set, we are heading for closure, and we have many tasks to find our way there, so we are finding our way to closure. But it's more than that. Because when facing a life event, a change, a transition, we often find ourselves looking for a *sense* of closure. We want to find a way to tie a kind of final, durable knot, to feel a sense of completion, or satisfaction, or peace.

So for this first message, let me just say how proud of you I am for recognizing the moment our church is in. And let me say how honored I am to be a part of this journey. Together we will travel together in finding closure. Our path is not a straight line and the way ahead may be met with unexpected challenges. Yet we will travel together, side by side, guided by our shared faith in our mighty God, held in support by our guide Jesus, and empowered by the Holy Spirit. We are not alone on this journey. You will never be alone on this journey.

And may the Peace of Christ be with you, Adam

Rev. Adam Isbitsky, Legacy Pastor
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See the Promise 2024: *June 5, 2024 at 6:00 PM*

Spring is here, which means Family Promise's annual 'See the Promise' event is right around the corner! Family Promise is so excited to enjoy a special evening of community and have a night out with their supporters, including our church. They are reinventing their classic fundraiser—you won't want to miss this new and dynamic take on this annual event. Join them at Olio, an historic theatre in downtown Peabody, where they'll have live music from the talented "Three Second Chances" and hear from special guest speaker, Yvonne Abraham from The Boston Globe.

[LINK FOR TICKETS](#)



Join us for a
**Race Amity
Day Ceremony**



**On the steps of
Beverly City Hall
Sunday, June 9th
Convenes at 11am**

Race Amity Day Proclamation
Read at 11:15 am

Race Amity Day is part of the Bahá'í faith's initiatives to advance cross-racial and cross-cultural friendship.

Forward Chat—Scheduled for June 9th following Service.



We invite church members and friends to our next Forward Chat following worship on June 9. The focus will be on Building Our Legacy topics. We will have time for open discussion and questions. If there is a response by then from the MA Attorney General's Office of Public Charities to our preliminary filing regarding our plans for the building, we will also share it at that time. Those joining via Zoom can stay in the same Zoom meeting as that morning's worship service.



THANK YOU TO SHARE

Thank you for sending cards to my mom, Bobbie Horne, while she lived at Ledgewood nursing home. She was blind and had dementia, but she did still recognize names from church when I told her she had a card sent to her. She had a special place in her heart for the church family. Her favorite place was the church kitchen, working on sport banquets and bean suppers.

Bobbie passed peacefully on Wednesday, May 1st. Her family was able to spend time with her, knowing she was declining in the past few months. She will be buried with her husband behind the church at a date to be determined.

(Wendy Horne Geras)



Central Board News and Notes:

The Central Board met May 15. Rev Adam shared a theme for the church program year (Sept 2024-June 2025) of **Past-Present-Future in Every Season**. Sunday One will be September 8, to kick things off. Look for more details in next month's Spire.

Rev Adam also reminded the CB of an opportunity for church meeting delegates at the SNEUCC Annual Meeting Saturday June 22, hosted at UMass Amherst. Please contact the church office, Rev Adam or Central Board members if you are interested in attending.

The Central Board approved hiring Ryan Hemphill onto our part-time Tech staff to the open position hosting our streaming of services, primarily on Sunday mornings. Ryan will work with David Brandt for a few weeks to familiarize himself with the process David has created. The CB hopes that having 2 people available will help us continue with this important outreach most weeks, with the plan to notify in the Thursday E-news updates if streaming is not available for some reason. Welcome Ryan!

The Central Board finalized the call and agenda for our May 19 Annual Meeting. Items for congregational approval included copies of the Annual Report, results of the election of Central Board members, a budget request from the Building Our Legacy Team for additional funds to cover legal expenses, and to include a motion to change our investment strategy for the shorter Legacy timeframe was agreed upon.

Building Our Legacy Team Update – Jack reported to the CB that our lawyers met with Jon Green, Director of the Attorney General's Office of Charities on April 22. The meeting notes from our lawyers reflected a generally favorable impression of our intent to sell Second Church's building and property to Lifebridge. Mr. Green did share his intent to have his staff review the proposal in detail vs law and precedents. The LT shared the feedback received from our lawyers at our Annual Meeting May 19 and hopes to have additional news for the **June 9 Forward Chat**. The Annual Meeting call included a request for an additional \$40K for LT expenses, primarily legal, accounting and other needed services anticipated, which was approved.

Jack, Dale Earl and Rev Adam attended an SNEUCC Webinar on "Archiving Church Records" on May 16. Second Church had quite a few that attended the Conversation with Lifebridge Northshore and Family Promise NSB hosted by First Parish UU Church on May 7th. Good discussion and an opportunity to see a group of 75-100 of potential advocates for additional services for the homeless in the Beverly area.

Investment Portfolio - The CB reviewed and approved the Finance Team proposal to simplify our endowment investments to match relatively short time horizon assumptions as we traverse this Legacy period. Due to the much shorter time horizon, the Finance Team proposed moving our investments to certificates of deposits and money market accounts to minimize our market risk, which was approved during May's Annual Meeting.

The next Central Board meeting will be Wednesday June 19 at 7pm.

2024 Scholarship Recipients



The Scholarship Team has selected six outstanding area high school students to receive 2024 Second Congregational Church Scholarship awards.

Two Danvers High School students have been chosen. **Samantha Fay** will focus on psychology at Stonehill College, with a goal of becoming a mental health advocate. Samantha has balanced playing Varsity Softball throughout high school, a part time job in retail, and going above and beyond in her community service in local mental health organizations, Danvers CARES and Danvers Falcon Fest. Her academic achievements have placed her in the #1 spot in DHS Class of 2024.

Allison O’Keefe’s performance in the classroom has placed her in the #2 spot academically, and a source of inspiration as Captain of the swim team. As a member of the National Honor Society and National English Honor Society, Allison organized and ran fundraising events to benefit the local community. She will be attending a college or university with the goal of becoming an athletic trainer, focusing on the health and wellbeing of athletes.

Beverly High School graduates include **Mia Bilotti**, Salutatorian of the BHS Class of 2024. She has been an outstanding athlete, captaining both varsity soccer and basketball teams. Her love of these sports led her to volunteer at the Special Olympics Basketball Program and the BHS Youth Soccer Clinic. Mia’s academic journey continues at Boston College, pursuing a career in applied mathematics and business analytics. She happens to love math!

Maria Braga will be attending Trinity College with a focus on neuroscience, motivated by her father’s illness. Maria served as Student Council Class President for three years at BHS and Treasurer of the National Honor Society. Her involvement in the Women’s Empowerment Club exemplifies her dedication to uplifting and supporting women in need. Volleyball and track were her sports and Maria’s outreach to the community served Bootstraps, the YMCA and the Beverly Public Library.

Abigail Shipp’s educational and career goals involve emphasizing and creating inclusive educational environments for students with special needs and assisting in developing and implementing transition plans for life beyond high school. She will be attending UNH, majoring in Communication Services & Disorders. Abigail volunteered for Best Buddies International and the Senior Breakfast Club at the Senior Center. She has been on the Honors & Principals List throughout her years at BHS.

Participating in the BHS Marching Band and Concert Band has been a passion of **Jonathan Thompson** throughout the past four years. His participation in the Culinary Arts Club offered him opportunities for preparing meals for area homeless shelters and local gatherings. Jonathan will be attending UMass Amherst, pursuing a career in psychology, with a goal of working in a field that promotes mental wellness and improves the quality of life.

~Scholarship Team: Mary Jane Clark, George Jacobson, Janet Whitson~



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Marty Brandt has invited the Spirited Women to meet at her house on Sunday **June 9th** after the forward chat. So please arrive at Marty's at 12:30. Please park at St. Margaret's Church across the street. Bring a bag lunch and we will either walk to the beach behind her house or you can catch a ride on their cool beach buggy! Rain or shine.

Marty's # is 617 335 2638. Her address is 669 Hale St Beverly.

Hope you can join us! If you can't make it, Spirited Women will start up again in September.