



The Spire

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

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July/August 2022



Worship at SCC in July & August 2022

**SUMMER 2022 Worship SERIES
- Experiments in Church**

**Theme: *Exploring, Expressing, Experiencing
Faith***

July 3 – *DIY** Worship with Communion

Coordination & Preacher: Lisa

Setting: Chapel with Zoom (Holiday Weekend)

Music: Recorded music

**DIY – Please see separate article!*

July 10 – Worship in the Sanctuary

A Theological Conversation with ‘the Piano Man’

Coordination & Preacher: Lisa

Setting: Sanctuary with Zoom

Music: Special Guest - Ben Eramo, piano

July 17 – *DIY** Worship with Special Guest Musician Ben Eramo

Coordination & Preacher: Lisa

Setting: Sanctuary with Zoom

July 24 – Worship – Details tba – please watch your weekly e-news

Coordination & Preacher: Lisa

July 31 – *DIY** Worship - Details tba – please watch your weekly e-news

Coordination & Preacher: Lisa

Aug. 7 – Beverly Homecoming with the Multifaith Coalition

Coordination: Lisa

Setting: Lynch Park (no zoom)

Aug. 14 – Worship with Baptism

Coordination & Preacher: Wendy (Lisa on vacation)

Setting & Music: tbd

Aug. 21 – Worship with Guest Musician Ben Eramo

Coordination & Preacher: Wendy (Lisa on vacation)

Setting: tbd

Aug. 28 – *DIY** Worship in the Chapel (with zoom)

Coordination & Preacher: Lisa (Wendy on vacation) –

Music: tbd

Sept. 4 – Worship in the Sanctuary - Communion & Baptism (w zoom)

Coordination & Preacher: Lisa (Wendy on vacation)

Music: tbd

Sept. 11 – *DIY** Worship in the Sanctuary (with zoom)

Coordination & Preacher: Lisa

Reflecting on Our Experiment & Experiences

Music: tbd

Sept. 18 – SUNDAY ONE! Worship in the Sanctuary (with zoom)



Light of the World

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



Tree of Life

Christian love and sympathy are extended to the family of **Ruth Wilson** (Nana to Bonnie Molino), who died on June 8th.

*What is *DIY* Worship??

DIY worship is a fully participatory style of worship. All the portions of the service, from the words of welcome to the benediction are pre-scripted and laid out for anyone to pick up as they come into worship that morning. The only exceptions are the “sermon/meditation” and the “pastoral prayer”. This means that anyone and everyone has the opportunity to help lead worship that day. No one is expected to take a part, but everyone may do so. It is a fun and meaningful way for the community to gather. If you have questions, please be in touch with Rev. Lisa. Please join in a *DIY* service when we have them!



~2022 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS~



This year the Scholarship Team presented \$1,000 awards to five area students from the newly established ***Second Congregational Church Scholarship***.

Three recipients are recent graduates of Beverly High School. **Jaelin Arroyo** will be attending Mass College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. Growing up with a mom who manages a group home for adults with mental illnesses has made an impression on Jaelin and his own challenges have contributed to his desire *“to help others live better lives.”*

Benjamin Redington begins his journey to become an RN at Salem State University. After many life experiences, Ben’s perseverance to achieve became a reality with his heart set on being of service to others – *“For it is through perseverance that we seek to uplift and improve the human condition.”*

Kennedy Steiner will be majoring in Strategic Communications at Elon University, with hopes of *“having a career at a hospital within their fundraising or public relations departments.”* Kennedy’s community service began nine years ago, collecting over 50,000 toys for the Toys for Tots program. Her *Kennedy Kares* outreach has evolved into a program at Massachusetts General Hospital, *“providing stress reducing supplies to patients with cognitive differences transitioning from the pediatric floors to adult floors.”*

Hamilton-Wenham HS graduate **Gianna Randazzo** has developed a deep interest in civil rights and racism issues that inspired her to create documentaries centering on them for the *National History Day* competition for high school students throughout the United States. She was honored for her entries - *“The Greensboro Sit-Ins: Standing Up by Sitting Down”* and *“Kent State: A Right Not Exercised is a Right Lost.”* Gianna will major in government and legal studies at Bowdoin College, *“with hopes to obtain my law degree and to use it to help prevent discrimination and to protect our civil rights.”*

Ben Goodell is a graduate of Malden Catholic HS and attended a post-high school program at Phillips Academy in Andover. His community outreach included *“volunteering at the Reading YMCA working with children with special needs acclimate to the pool environment and writing letters to 2nd graders at a Lawrence elementary school thru the Breadloaf Pen Pals program.”* Ben will be attending Hobart and William Smith Colleges in Geneva NY and plans *“to immerse myself in the community engagement programs.”*

(Scholarship Team Members: Mary Jane Clark, George Jacobson, Janet Whitson)



Thank You Second Church

"I was overjoyed to receive the scholarship from your church today! Thank you so very much! It will definitely help with my tuition at Salem State University." –Ben Remington

"I received your lovely letter and scholarship check. I want to thank you for your generosity and support of my desire to seek higher education. I am so grateful for the financial assistance. I appreciate your invitation and I will make the time to come by for Sunday worship to thank you in person." – Jaelin Arroyo

"Thank you so much for awarding me the SCC Scholarship. This scholarship is an immense help for me as I try to save money for college. I am very excited to attend Bowdoin College this fall!" - Gianna Randazzo

Thank you so much for awarding me one of your scholarships. I greatly appreciate that you saw potential in me enough to contribute towards my education. I will be able to attend my dream school Elon University in the fall. Thank you so much again!" – Kennedy Steiner

"Thank you for believing in the passionate work of the United Church of Christ. Your donation of \$245. To One Great Hour of Sharing was received. Our ministry embraces a wider church that is global, multiracial, multicultural, open and affirming, and accessible to all." – Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer, General Minister & President UCC

*THANK YOU to all who attended our annual fundraising gala **See the Promise**. We are so grateful to have had the opportunity to share updates about Family Promise to our amazing supporters both new and long-serving. Throughout the night we heard from past and present board members, staff, volunteers and families we have had the privilege to serve. We hope that every guest left this event with a better understanding of Family Promise and not only feels more connected to the mission but understands that you are all part of the community needed to create real change. **We've raised \$50K – and counting!***

"Thanks to all who made donations to the SCC Scholarship Fund, in support of my tomato plant program. Your support increases the funds we are able to award to area students." -- George Jacobson

Pastor's Ponderings

Pastor's Ponderings

Dear Friends,

Summer is in full swing and with it our experiment in church and worship! I hope you are enjoying the variety of services and will continue to partake and participate whenever you are able in the coming months!

It is also important to keep in mind that this experiment isn't just for the heck (or fun) of it! The purpose is to help us experience change and diversity in the way we "do church" and to reflect on what that means for our future as a church community. As Second Congregational Church discerns where God is leading and calling us, this summer's experimental worship can inform and transform our vision and plans for next steps. This is a purposeful step in our transitional process.

Along with that step, this summer we will also be continuing to engage sharing our personal reflections and investigating 'next steps'. Planning is currently underway for a series of small group gatherings for those who want to process together. We are also probing the specifics of 3 possibilities: 1) moving to a part-time pastor, 2) 'yoking' with another church to share a pastor and perhaps some ministries, and 3) partnering with Family Promise in serving the Beverly community in a new way.

Please watch your weekly enews and pay attention to the Sunday announcements to learn more about coming events in July and August!

Meanwhile, it is also my hope and prayer that the summer will include some time for you to rest and relax and enjoy all the glories of our God's marvelous creation!

May God's blessings be with you!

Lisa

Pastor & Transitional Minister



PS – In the wake of recent events, including the Supreme Court rulings on both gun control and abortion, I encourage you to join me as we make our voices heard with others at events both in the 'public square' and on-line. I also urge you to "pray without ceasing" for our country and our world! If you feel a need to talk, please don't hesitate to reach out to either Wendy or myself, as we deeply desire to be of support! Peace, hope and blessings!

Message from Chaplain: Wendy Linares

Summer Greetings, Everyone! As we move into Summer here is a poem by Macrina Wiederkehr. May it bless your days and bring you a sense of peace and wonder.

Rise early
when summer darkness
still enwraps the trees.
Walk into the dark forest
with only your attentive heart.
Gaze toward the east
take a deep breath, and wait.
After a short while you will see God
carrying a lantern through the forest,
Bits of light bobbing up and down,
in and out, higher and higher,
the light climbs, spilling over
into the spaces between the leaves
and on into the world
beyond the forest.

By Macrina Wiederkehr

Then the beautiful darkness
hands you over to the light.
It slips away reverently
into the bark of the tree trunks,
into the black earth, into all those
countries
that wait for its return.
Lift your face to the daystar now.
Experience the coming of dawn.
Bathed in morning light, pray
that the lantern of your life
move gently this day
into all those places
where light is needed.



As always, please let me know if I can be a supportive presence to you. I am available by phone, email, or text. Warmly, Wendy

508 451 7585 wendylinares60@gmail.com

NEWS & Articles From the Wider Church – The UCC & Beyond

‘We will stand with you in protest’: National officers speak out after SC over-
turns Roe v. Wade”

<https://www.ucc.org/we-will-stand-with-you-in-protest-national-officers-speak-out-after-sc-overturms-roe-v-wade/>

“National and regional leaders of the United Church of Christ issued a pastoral letter June 8, calling on churches to publicly resist a wave of “attacks on people of transgender or nonbinary experience.”

<https://www.ucc.org/new-ucc-pastoral-letter-toolkit-urge-church-to-speak-out-for-trans-nonbinary-people/>



“Millions of people are displaced by the war in Ukraine. Additional millions are trapped by the fighting. Across Ukraine, in neighboring countries and beyond, churches are assisting them with food, shelter, safety, hygiene and psychosocial support.”

<https://www.ucc.org/ucc-distributes-more-appeal-donations-to-assist-ukrainians/>

~SCC CHURCH DIRECTORY~

Thanks to all who provided information for the newly released June 2022 Church Directory. You can access a color version at: [June 2022 Directory](#)

or black/white printed copies are available in the church office and on the Narthex table for pickup. Contact church office: parishadmin@beverlysecond.com or phone: 978-922-5722 to have a copy mailed to you. Please notify the office of corrections and/or changes to keep the on-line Directory current.

Dear Second Church Friends,

Thank you so much for the kind send-off you all gave us on June 5th. We were so pleased to have a full choir and bell choir for our last day, especially after so many years of deprivation! We loved the clever piano cake, and we will long appreciate your generous going-away gift.

When we get to Italy and move into our temporary digs, we will almost certainly have to buy quite a few essential items to get us through until our own belongings arrive. Every time we lift a wet hand and find that, yes, we DO have a towel to dry it on, every time our stomachs growl for dinner and we discover with relief that we DO have a pot to cook it in, every time we feel exhausted by the many catch-22s of Italian bureaucracy but can at last crawl for refuge into a bed with fresh clean sheets, we'll feel a burst of gratitude to our Second Church friends whose loving kindness has taken on those comforting practical shapes.

In the coming months you will be making many important and difficult decisions. We will not be with you in person, but we will always be with you in spirit, encouraging you to “strive in all things to build up the church,” to practice forbearance toward one another, and to SMILE when you sing!

Love,
Charles and Nancy



Important Reading for All SCC Members & Friends

Please take the time to read about the recent Annual Meeting of the Southern New England Conference! One part of the article shares very pertinent information from the keynote address by the Rev. Dr. Patrick Duggan, Executive Director of the Church Building & Loan Fund, who shared examples of exciting ways UCC congregations are rethinking the use of their properties in order to better serve as mission centers. This is extremely helpful information as we continue our process here at SCC!

<https://www.sneucc.org/newsdetail/annual-meeting-16540059>



Southern New England Conference

United Church of Christ

Living the Love & Justice of Jesus

SCC Search for Next Director of Music



At the April meeting of the Central Board, the formation of a Music Director Search Team was approved. This team will begin work as we start July and begin by developing a job description for the position, along with some visions about the future of the music program. If you are interested in serving on this Search Team, or working on the job description/program vision, please send an email to Rev. Lisa and Dale Earl of the Central Board, no later than Tuesday, July 5th. Thank you.

Central Board News and Notes:

Central Board Notes

The Central Board met for its regular monthly meeting on June 21, 2022 and welcomed newly elected members Peg Round and Kathy Taylor. Minutes from several past meetings, which included April, May, two special meetings, and the Annual Congregational Meeting, were approved (all are posted at <https://bev2board.weebly.com/>). Current chair, Dale Earl, will continue in that role and Doug Marquart is presumed to remain as Secretary (he was not able to attend).

Liaisons to Second Church's Teams were reviewed: Technology – Lisa, Worship – Lauren, Mission/Social Action – Kathy, Property – Jack, Music Search – Kathy, Transition – Peg, Finance – Peg, and Safe Church - TBD. The Reopening Team will remain but dormant unless needed.

Rev. Lisa announced summer projects which include cleaning out offices and staff evaluations. Central Board members will assist with the evaluations. Worship planning for the summer will be managed by staff. The Transition Process will also continue this summer with one more round of small group meetings to target transition options to consider. Technology issues are being resolved in July to ensure that high quality sound and other needs are addressed.

Jack mentioned that it was time to have the church reappraised both for insurance purposes and for use in the transition process. He will obtain bids from our current vendor and at least one other. Jack also noted that he had drafted a new license for the North Shore Christian School which combined all the annual amendments for clarity. It was agreed to include an increase in the annual fee of five percent and to add a standard exit clause for both parties. In a discussion regarding our Safe Church Policy, Jack recommended security cameras for the church. Our custodian will no longer be doing the evening building check and those funds could be expended for the cameras. Both Peg and Lisa are checking on the availability of safe church training for presentation to the congregation.

The Central Board meets next on July 19, 2022.





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



Spirited Women

July 13—Spirited Women will meet at the Labyrinth at St. John's Prep on Summer St in Danvers. Meet at 6pm. The labyrinth is not very visible from the street as you drive by, however it is located by the statue of Mary which is visible from the street. Parking at one of the lots nearby. Bring a bag supper and a chair or blanket. We will walk the labyrinth and enjoy one another's company!

August 14 -we will meet at the church building in the parlor right after worship. Please share a brief summary of a book you like. Also if you have a book you are willing to loan please bring it. And if you haven't read anything you want to share, come anyway! As always, good women conversation will be present!