



THE SPIRE

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

Interim Bridge Minister: Rev. Judith Brain

Directors of Music: Mr. Charles Turner & Ms. Nancy Rexford

Phone: 978.922.5722

Fax: 978.922.3064

Email: parishadmin@beverlysecond.com

Web site: www.BeverlySecond.com

www.facebook.com/BeverlySecond

VOLUME LIV, ISSUE 4

December 2017

Advent & Christmas Schedule

- DEC. 3 SUNDAY 9:30 AM First Sunday of Advent Worship, Communion
And Advent Workshop**
Children create Christmas crafts and keepsakes in Sunday school.
- DEC. 10 SUNDAY 9:30 AM Second Sunday of Advent Worship – New members received**
A septet of stringed instruments will perform the *Concerto for Christmas Night* by Arcangelo Corelli, which evokes the wonderment of the shepherds in beautiful pastoral music.
- DEC. 16 SATURDAY 3:00 PM Christmas Concert**
The choirs of Second Church and Holy Trinity, Danvers join for a festive concert.
Come for the music, stay for supper!
- DEC. 16 SATURDAY 5:00 PM Community Supper**
- DEC. 17 SUNDAY 9:30 AM Third Sunday of Advent Worship**
Pageant rehearsal in the Church School
- DEC. 24 SUNDAY 9:30 AM Fourth Sunday of Advent Festival Worship**
Trumpet, violin, choir, carols. A Christmas service for the community.
- DEC. 24 SUNDAY 4:00 PM Christmas Eve Pageant**
Intergenerational Candlelight Nativity Tableau
We hear Christmas story, sing carols, and light candles.
- DEC. 24 SUNDAY 10:00 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight service**
A peaceful gathering to celebrate the birth of the Prince of Peace.
- DEC. 31 SUNDAY 9:30 AM Family Worship – Carol Sing**
Sing your choice of carols, welcome the New Year.



December Schedule:

- 3** First Sunday of Advent
Communion
Message: Rev. Judith Brain
Lay Reader: Pam Spinney
- 10** Second Sunday of Advent
Message: Rev. Brain
Lay Reader: Gail Goodell
Congregational Meeting
following worship
- 12** Church Boards Chapel 7pm
- 16** A Christmas Concert 3pm
Community Supper 5-6pm
- 17** Third Sunday of Advent
Message: Rev. Judith Brain
Lay Reader: Bonnie Fleming
- 24** Fourth Sunday of Advent
Christmas Eve Day
Morning Worship 9:30am
Christmas Pageant 4pm
Traditional Christmas Eve 10pm
- 29** St. Peter's Supper 5pm
- 31** First Sunday after Christmas—Carol Sing
Message: Rev. Brain
Lay Reader: James Stephenson



THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

During December the Church Spire will be illumined in loving memory of **Marie Lowe**, by her daughters—Donna, Pamela & Rhonda.

And the Tablet will be lit in loving memory of **Marian & Bill Tannebring** by their family.



REMEMBRANCE TREE

Take a moment during the Advent season to stop by the Chapel to “decorate” the tree with names of loved ones who have died. Paper ornaments are provided. The lives of those named will be lifted up and honored during a Remembrance Service on January 7, 2018.



It's time for the obligatory rant against the commercialization of Christmas. Although actually this year, the Christmas police are complaining that Christmas is not commercialized enough. They do not approve of "Happy Holidays" at Walmart and Target, nor do they want simple snowflakes on their Starbucks cups. They want their shopping done specifically *in the name of Christ!* Oh dear, you just can't win.

Ah well, here's a little poem that puts it all in its place

*Christmas can be celebrated
with one 50-cent candle
and compassion, but it never is.*

*I won't put tinsel on the manger
or take hawking merchants for angels,
Yet I will bake cookies
buy presents and cards,
decorate the house and tree
commit the sin of self-exhaustion.*

*There is nothing wrong
with sentiments or tradition,
but they are less than the Event.*

*I will struggle to remember
that Jesus Christ can redeem
everyone and everything
even Christmas.*

~ Mim Neal

Peace to you and peace on earth.

Judy



Christmas Eve Morning • Sunday • December 24 • 9:30pm

Advent Festival Worship

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Second Congregational United Church of Christ

35 Conant St. Beverly, MA

978-922-5722

Greet Christmas Eve with choir, trumpet, violin, and familiar carols.

No matter who you are or where you are on your journey of faith,

Christmas Eve • Sunday • December 24 • 4:00pm

Candlelight Christmas Pageant

"Joy to the world, the Lord is come!"

Second Congregational United Church of Christ

35 Conant St. Beverly, MA

978-922-5722

The service that puts Christ into Christmas Eve.

Bring the children to see the Christmas story unfold in carols, narration, and tableau.

Christmas Eve • Sunday • December 24 • 10:00pm

Candlelight Christmas Service

"Peace on Earth, Good Will to All"

Second Congregational United Church of Christ

35 Conant St. Beverly, MA

978-922-5722

A quiet service of lessons and carols ending in candlelight.

Music events for December

December 3

The morning anthem, 'He Will Come' uses hand bells, flute, and piano to accompany the choir. It is based partly upon a Greek folk song.

At 11:15, there will be a joint rehearsal in the sanctuary for the Christmas concert. Choirs from Second Church and Holy Trinity Danvers will participate.

December 10

As part of the worship service, a group of seven string players will perform the Christmas Concerto by Baroque composer Arcangelo Corelli.

The choir will sing 'Mary's Lullaby for the Christ Child' by Kathy Wonson Eddy, a composer with connections to Second Church.

At 11:15, there will be a second joint rehearsal in the sanctuary for the Christmas concert.

Christmas Concert - December 16 and 17

This year's concert will feature the choirs and hand bell groups from Holy Trinity Methodist Church in Danvers along with those from Second Church. There will also be music for solo voice, flute, violin, clarinet, harp, piano, and organ.

The concert will be given twice: on December 16th at Second Church at 3:00 PM, and on December 17th at Holy Trinity Methodist Church in Danvers at 4:00 PM.

December 17

At morning worship the choir and hand bells will perform 'The Song of the Virgin Mary,' by Charles Turner. This is a setting of an early English translation of the Virgin Mary's response to the angel of the Annunciation.

December 24

In the morning service, the choir will perform 'Christmas Quodlibet' by David Penninger, which presents four distinct melodies and weaves them into a musical tapestry. Violinist Rachel Wimmer will perform solo violin music by J.S. Bach, and Anthony Prestigiovanni will play trumpet.

The afternoon pageant may include shepherd piping and the three kings may also sing.

The choir will take part in the Christmas Eve service of Lessons and Carols; there will be a lot of singing in our celebration of the birth of our Savior.



Mission Moments

White Gifts for Christmas Eve Service



This year we are supporting the students at Recovery High School and a local refugee family.

The kids at Recovery High School have need for day to day items to help keep life somewhat normal. Stores that are good are **Market Basket**, **Target** and **Walmart** would be greatly appreciated.

The refugee family originally came from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, but they fled to Burundi in 2002, forced out by the violence that spread to their area after the Rwandan genocide. They receive food stamps, but have little cash for non-food groceries, so gift cards to **Stop and Shop** (closest grocery) and **Target** which are accessible by bus are best.

You can bring your offerings on Christmas Eve or deliver to church office before then. Thank you!



Helping parents & children in need celebrate Christmas.

Trees are decorated with numbered paper tags with the first name, age and gender of a child in need of presents. Contributors take one or more tags and purchase appropriate gifts for the child described on the tag. Gifts should be unwrapped and returned to church

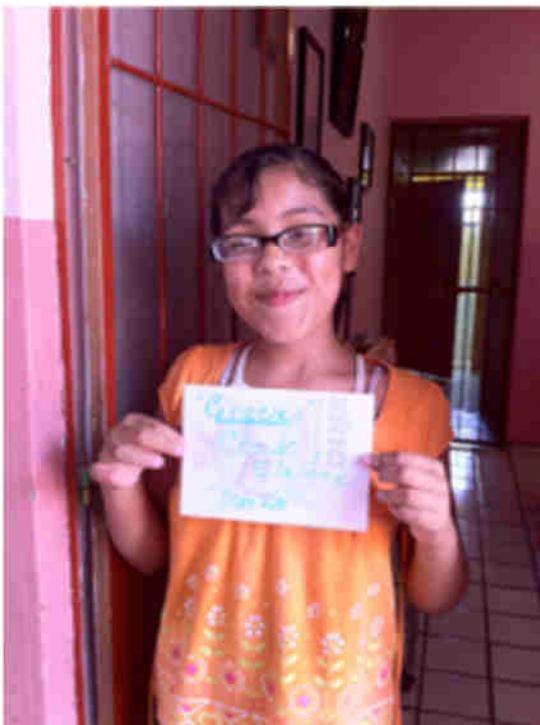
by December 17th.

A Ripple in the Pond - Chuck Roy

A number of years ago when Elaine and I started the Casa Building Fund it was with the hope that two people could make a difference in the lives of the children of the Casa Hogar orphanage in Colima, Mexico. Through the generosity of many we have continued to work towards that goal. As we look back over the years we can see countless improvements and benefits derived from the funds you have entrusted us with. It is like dropping a pebble in a pond and watching the ever expanding ripples that move across the smooth surface of the water. It would take several pages to list the benefits: however, we can share one current example your contributions made possible.

Three days into our 2011 mission trip we met Dr. Montserrat who was volunteering and providing medical care for the children of the orphanage. We asked if she needed anything and she said there were no funds to purchase medical supplies. The next day we took the Doctor to the pharmacy and purchased an estimated five months supply of medicine for \$500. We left the Casa another \$500 to be used for any medical emergency need during our absence.

Shortly after we got home to Beverly, the Doctor contacted us and told us Damaris was doing very poorly in school. She was having trouble with here vision and needed \$200 for special eyeglasses to correct her problem. Elaine remembered seeing Damaris with her face almost touching a book as she struggled to read. We told the Doctor to take the money from the Medical Emergency Fund. The Doctor sent us a photo of Damaris wearing her new glasses and on November 2, 2017 we received a photo of Damaris in her nursing school uniform. We want to share it with all of you who did indeed make a difference in her life because of your support of the Casa Building Fund.





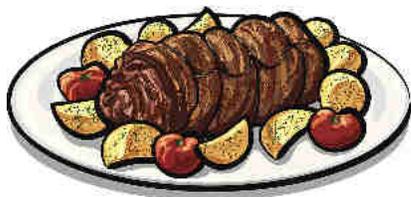
We will again be getting the usual large poinsettias in red, white, or pink to decorate the sanctuary in memory or honor of someone.

The price will be \$13. Color choices are red, white, & pink.

Orders will be taken during coffee hour on Sundays, Dec. 10 & 17. The order will be placed on Sunday the 17th (we cannot add to order after that).

The sanctuary will be decorated with the poinsettias on Friday, Dec. 22 and people can take them home after any of the Christmas Eve services.

Roast Beef Supper



Saturday, December 16

5:00-6:00pm

2nd Congregational Church

35 Conant St, Beverly

Adults—\$8.00, Seniors \$6.00

Children \$5.00

Slice of Pie— \$1.50

Menu: Roast beef, gravy, baked potato, vegetables, rolls, beverage

Knitting Notes

The Knitters wish everyone a Blessed, Merry Christmas and a very Healthy , Happy New Year.

We will not be meeting in December due to many activities. However, we do urge people to keep the knitting needles busy in your "SPARE"

Time. We will meet again in January. The date is January 10, 2018 at 1 pm in the parlor. Come and join the conversation!!

Ruth Moran





An update from the
**PASTORAL
SEARCH
COMMITTEE**

The search committee is moving full steam ahead. We have received profiles from 14 candidates to date, and are actively arranging interviews with our top choices. Once we meet the candidates, we will narrow it down even further and arrange to hear them preach on a neutral pulpit. We have some very promising folks to meet, and are excited to move forward with the process!

-Becky Stephenson, Chair



December 3	Advent Workshop for all ages
December 10	Pageant rehearsal
December 17	Pageant rehearsal
December 24	Family Service—no church school or nursery
December 31	Family Service—nursery will be available



Second Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

35 Conant Street

Beverly MA 01915



ANNUAL
CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING

A congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, December 10th in the Sanctuary immediately following worship. The purpose of the meeting will be to consider the Proposed 2018 Budget as prepared by the Prudential Board. Any other business that comes legally before the meeting will also be addressed. Copies of the Proposed Budget will be available on December 3rd and handed out at the Meeting. P2 is on the market and there will be an open house on December 2nd and 3rd.