



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

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April 2018



April Worship/Events

- 1 Easter Ecumenical Sunrise Service**
@ Lynch Park 6:15am
(weather: Church in Cove)
Easter Family Worship Second Church
9:30am
Message: Rev. Judith Brain
Lay Reader: George Haile
- 8 Second Sunday of Easter**
Message: Ms. Wendy Linares, Chaplain
Lay Reader: Amanda Wiederhold
- 10 Board Meetings – 7pm**
- 11 CE Board – 6:30pm**
- 15 Third Sunday of Easter**
Message: Rev. Brain
Lay Reader: Ruth Moran
- 21 Community Roast Chicken Supper 5-6pm**
- 22 Fourth Sunday of Easter**
Message: Rev. Wendy Vander Hart,
Northeast Association Minister
Lay Reader: Lois Hall
- 29 Fifth Sunday of Easter**
Message: Rev. Jim Pocock,
Guest Minister
Lay Reader: James Stephenson
Church School Supper 6pm



LIGHT OF THE WORLD

During April the Church Spire is being lit by Judy Andrews Eramo, *“in loving memory of mother **Ruth Andrews** and son **David Kuell.**”* Also, *“In memory of **Ginger & Henry Swanson** and **Helen Swanson McEachern,**”* by Dana & David Swanson. The Tablet continues to be illumined *“in memory of **Marian & Bill Tannebring,**”* by their family.



TREE OF LIFE

Christian Love & Sympathy is extended to family & friends of: **Douglas Littlehale** (husband d. Barbara), who died March 6 and **Wayne S. Thomas** (nephew to Pat Roberts), who died

The Congregation of Pilgrim UCC Invites you to a Service of Installation for

Rev. Tara Olsen Allen

As Pastor and Teacher

On Sunday, May 6, 2018

@ 3:00pm reception to follow

Please RSVP to Pilgrim Church Office

603-778-3189 or

pilgrimucc@pilgrimucc-nh.org

Please wear red as it is the color of the day!

ACCENT-U-ATE THE POSITIVE

Accent-u-ate the positive.

Elim-inate the negative.

Latch on to the affirmative

Don't mess with mister in between.



Only us oldsters remember that ditty. What a sappy song it was! And yet ... and yet, the Rev. Dr. Norman Vincent Pele made millions and influenced generations with exactly that message – The Power of Positive Thinking. And more up-to-date research tells us that optimism and a cheerful attitude actually have benefits to one's health and well-being.

I think that's true of churches too. A church growth consultant has observed that many churches, like ours, remember the glory days of full sanctuaries, burgeoning membership, and churches of great influence. We tend to focus on what has been lost. But that is a recipe for despair. Marcus Borg says that in our time, we are no longer "conventional Christians," attending church because it's the thing to do; we are "intentional Christians," aligning ourselves with a faith community because we want to be here, to grow closer to God. We want to make a difference. That's good news!

So as Second Beverly gets ready to move into our next phase of spiritual growth, let's attend to what we have, not what we've lost. Let's accent-u-ate the positive.

To get us started ... let me share a few observations. I haven't been through the hard work of re-visioning your identity and missions as you have. I haven't experienced the struggles. I just came in and joined up with a lively church. So here's what it looks like from that perspective. What do I see?

- You are a congregation that worships wholeheartedly. You sing with gusto, you trust each other with your sorrows and joys, you aspire to greater understanding, you laugh and clap and smile and nod your heads. You are present when we worship. It is so joyful!
- You are blessed with amazing leadership. You are wise, hard-working, dedicated, honest, and tolerant. You can disagree without animosity, forgive when things don't always work out, and keep plugging when you don't see immediate results.
- You are creative. Innovation does not shock you.
- You are friendly and kind and welcoming.
- You have an underlying commitment to caring for people. One of the most endearing things I have discovered about this congregation is your dedication to living out Jesus' commandment to love your neighbor. In countless conversations with groups and individuals, the underlying theme is "How can we help?" "How can we go to where the pain is?"

Such good stuff! Plenty with which to build a viable, lively, and beloved community.

Onward! Judy

Knitting Notes

Wishing all Blessed Easter Season.

Our Knitting Group and the First Baptist Church gave Prayer Shawls and Baby Blankets to Hospice in Haverhill.

The High Point Hospice facility wrote that the Prayer Shawls were very much appreciated. The Baby Blankets were well received by the Maternal and Child Health Team of the VNA and the Pregnancy Center of Haverhill. Our work is very appreciated by all who receive our knitted gifts.

We will be meeting. April 11, 2018 at 1 pm in the Church Parlor. Come and join our group for conversation and laughs. All are welcome.

Ruth Moran



Pizza and Prayer Recap

Pizza and Prayer met March 8th in the parlor. After eating delicious pizza, green salad, and brownies, ice cream with home made fudge sauce, a lively discussion followed. John Lewis wrote, " We are one people, one family, the human family, and what affects one of us affects us all." This quote brought forth a lively discussion on the positives and negatives we are facing at Second Church and the outside world. The discussion did get us thinking about the changes we are facing here at Second Church. We must remember as Laurence Overmire wrote, " Every positive action we take, no matter how small, will have an impact." The next meeting of Pizza and Prayer has not been decided as yet. Come and join the good eats and discussion.

Roast Chicken Supper

2nd Congregational Church

35 Conant St. Beverly

Saturday, April 21

5:00 - 6:00 PM

Adults - \$7.00, Seniors - \$6.00, Children - \$3.50

Slice of Home Baked Pie - \$1.50

Menu: Roast chicken, mashed potatoes, gravy, broccoli,

coffee, tea, milk, and rolls

Building is Handicap accessible



Prudential Board Report —Mac Donaldson

Discussions were begun in January about the need to rectify the loose, unsafe floor carpeting in the sanctuary. The Deacons, Property Committee, Prudential Board and our pastor Judy are sharing thoughts and ideas. Currently under discussion is possibility of sanding and refinishing of the entire floor, and only replacing carpet only in the center aisle, leaving refinished floor exposed elsewhere. There has also been discussion about the potential simultaneous removal of two to three rows of pews at the back of the sanctuary, to open up that space and make it more inviting, including the possibility of our after-service coffee being served there. A change of this nature will require congregational approval. Since the floor won't be redone until this summer, there will be an opportunity at our May Annual Meeting for discussion and a vote on the pew removal. Based on current estimates, there are sufficient existing funds in the Vision 300 Fund to cover this work.

As many of you may be aware, our kitchen contract with the caterer was set to terminate at the end of March. At their request, we have negotiated an extension of their stay by up to two months while they complete the process of finding a new home. They are mindful of the dates of our regular church suppers, and have told us they will not interfere with these events.

Finally, last month we completed a rebalancing of our investment portfolio. This was triggered primarily by the receipt of funds from the sale of P2 in January. We are holding out an amount of cash to cover potential additional improvements to P1, in addition to ongoing expenses. Adjustments were also made based on the substantially-reduced 2017 deficit (\$42,000) vs. the budgeted deficit amount (\$90,000). Please contact a member of the Prudential Board if you would like further information.

ANNUAL REPORTS DUE APRIL 15

Church leaders are reminded to submit a report to the church office, chronicling your achievements and challenges during the past year April 2017-May 2018. Email your report to Mary Jane Clark in the church office at: parishadmin@beverlysecond.com by the April 15 deadline; for preview on May 13 prior to the Annual Meeting on May 20. For copies of previous reports or questions, contact Mary Jane at email above.



April Schedule



4/1—Easter Sunday, no church school or nursery

4/8—Church School & Nursery

4/15—Vacation Week No Church School yes Nursery

4/22—Church School & Nursery

4/29—Church School & Nursery

Sunday School Sunday Supper

April 29th, 6:00 PM, Church Parlor



***Second Church is making a renewed
commitment to our children.***

How do we best attract and retain children and their families?

Help us shape the future as we search for ways to integrate children
into our family of faith.

Whether you are the parents of a past, present or future student,

We want to hear from you. We'll provide the food,
you provide the insight.

RSVP to the Church Office at 978-922-5722 or

parishadmin@beverlysecond.com

Children are welcome to attend!



PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

The Committee has been working hard and meeting weekly to narrow down the pastor profiles we received and perform screening interviews by telephone with candidates who ranked highly in our evaluation of their profiles. The candidates that showed promise in their initial interviews were then invited to meet with the Committee for more in-depth, face-to-face interviews. The number of candidates was culled down once more after the in-person interviews. The next step of the process is to visit other churches on Sundays to see the top candidates in action and hear them preach. We are in the process of doing this now.

The Committee would like to extend our deepest thanks to the congregation for their patience and support during this long process. We ask that you continue to keep us in your prayers.

Thank you,

Bonnie Molino

Chairperson, SCC Beverly Designated Term Pastor Search Committee



TASTE THE *Promise*

Wednesday,
May 2, 2018
6:00 to 9:00 pm
Danversport Yacht Club

A few tables of 12
available to purchase.

A fundraising festival of friends, fun and fine food from the North Shore's most generous restaurants all to support Family Promise North Shore Boston.

Ticket includes admission, unlimited delicious samples, live auction, raffles, and jazz. Our silent auction has been upgraded to first class, so it's on-line 24X7 - no need to wait until The Taste to bid on a fantastic array of interesting item.

Tickets are \$50.00 per person and are available online @ familypromisensb.org



Second Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

35 Conant Street

Beverly MA 01915

Sunday, April 22, 2018

DON'T MISS AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH REV. WENDY VANDER HART

Our Associate Conference Minister will be the preacher on April 22. After the service, we will gather for to talk with her and share our thoughts. Wendy is a great resource for churches in transition. She is interested in our joys, our frustrations, and our hopes for the future. Come for a light lunch and a meaningful conversation.

