



The Spire

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

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

Phone: 978.922.5722
Fax: 978.922.3064
Email: parishadmin@beverlysecond.com
Web site: www.BeverlySecond.com
www.facebook.com/BeverlySecond

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March, 2020



***To Rev. Dr. Peter-Michael Preble as our Interim Senior Minister,
we here at Second Church look forward
to getting to know you and your family
during our time together.***

***March 15th will be Rev. Peter's first day with us, you are all invited
to stay during coffee hour for a welcome celebration.***

MARCH

- 1 *First Sunday in Lent*
Communion
Message: Rev. Jim Pocock
Lay Reader: Ruth Moran
- 3 Central Board, 7pm
- 8 *Second Sunday in Lent-“Creative Spirit”*
Message: Chaplain Wendy Linares
Alternative Worship in Fellowship Hall
- 10 Finance/Property, 7pm
- 14 Active Shooter Training – 10am-noon
- 15 *Third Sunday in Lent*
Message: Rev. Peter Preble
Lay Reader: James Stephenson
- 17 Central Board, 6:30pm
- 21 Community Supper, Serve 5-6pm
- 22 *Fourth Sunday in Lent*
Message: Rev. Peter Preble
Lay Reader: Marty Brandt
Presentation by Church Finance
Consultant Karen McArthur
- 29 *Fifth Sunday in Lent*
Message: Rev. Peter Preble
Lay Reader: Kathy Taylor

LIGHT OF THE WORLD

During March the Church Spire is illuminated in memory of *Ernst Family Members* by family. Also, in memory of *Esther & Philip Nokes* by their family.



TREE OF LIFE

Christian Love & Sympathy is extended to family and friends of Edward Ernst (husband to Shirley), who died on February 19th.



Healthy Practices

With heightened concerns of contagious viruses we are asking people to take extra steps to help us all stay healthy.

- Touch elbows instead of hands
- Wash hands and use sanitizer
- Cough into your sleeve

Message from Chaplain: Wendy Linares

Greetings Everyone!

Well, it's official! We have a new Interim Minister starting mid month ! Yayyyyyy! It's been a long journey to get where we are, and I think most of us are certainly happy that the search is over. As we enter a new month and a new chapter in the life of our church, it is my hope that we can move forward with hope and excitement.

The search team , as well as the Central Board , have done a great job in making this happen. A huge thank you goes out to all the people who gave of their time and energy to get us on new footing. Let's remember too, that John Brennan , who died recently, was a major force in getting us to where we are now. We will remember him fondly, and have grateful hearts for his service. He was a bright light for sure.

As we move ahead and welcome Peter and his wife to Second Church , we move ahead as a stronger unit. May each of us bring all that we are as individuals and as a church family to the table , as we walk this new journey. God's blessings to all of us as we continue to live into Second Church's next chapter.

Warmest regards, Wendy

Contact information:

Home # 978 626 1186, Cell# 508 451 7585,
Email. wendylinares60@gmail.com



Prudential Board Report—Mac Donaldson Chairperson

We're only one month into the new year, so there isn't much to report at this point from a financial perspective. Thank you very much to those of you who got a good head start on meeting your 2020 pledges!!

	<u>YTD Actuals</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Total Budget Income	\$34,699.87	\$24,215.00	\$10,484.87
Total Pledge Receipts	\$29,382.35	\$10,492.00	\$18,890.35
Total Budget Expenses	\$16,434.68	\$24,226.00	-\$7,791.32
Total Income less Expenses	\$18,265.19	-\$11	

If there is financial information you would like to see regularly that you feel is missing from this monthly format, please let me know.

Thank you,

Mac Donaldson



ACTIVE SHOOTER TRAINING

Saturday, March 14, 10 am—12 pm

at

Second Congregational Church

35 Conant St., Beverly

Instructor: Officer Brian Long Beverly Police Department

FREE and Open to the Public

Update from Chuck & Elaine

After 20 years of volunteering at the Casa, it still takes us two days to get here but when we arrive, handmade signs hang from our apartment welcoming us back. Hugs are plentiful from the ninos as well as the staff and a wonderful meal awaits us.



It's been one week and we watched the solar panels being installed and know the project will be completed before our return in March. We've been driving the kinder to and from school in the Van the church donated in 2006. It's rugged, taken care of and used daily by the Casa.



We've already shown a movie to the ninos, have plans for a pizza night with the high schoolers including a reunion with some of the former residents of the Casa now grown and on their own and just this afternoon, drove to El Centro and watched a parade of school children observing Flag Day. As they marched by, the Casa ninos were so happy to see us in the crowd.

In spite of the heat, we walk about 2 miles each day and have found quality time to spend with Lupita. And one of our Mexican friends affectionately refer to our time at the Casa as "the Chuck and Elaine season".

As time goes by, we will keep you informed of our progress.

Chuck & Elaine Roy

Report of Congregational Meeting – February 16, 2020

Notice and Quorum requirements were met. There were four motions. All passed unanimously without abstentions.

Motion 1: The Central Board moves that the congregation call Rev. Peter Preble to be our Interim Pastor.

Motion 2: The Central Board moves that the congregation approve the five goals recommended by the Board for the remainder of 2019-20.

Motion 3: The Central Board moves that the congregation approve the following amendment to Article VII, Section 3b of the bylaws. The amended language is:

“A vote of confidence for up to fifteen members they would be willing to acknowledge as qualified to serve on the Central Board.”

Motion 4: The Central Board moves that the congregation approve the following amendment to Article VII, Section 5b of the bylaws. The amended language is:

“Regular meeting dates and times for Central Board meetings shall be publicized to the congregation by the Central Board secretary through at least two means likely to reach interested persons in the congregation at least seven days in advance. The agenda shall be posted two days before the meeting on the board web pages.”

See <https://bev2board.weebly.com/cong-mtng-2020-02-16.html> for full details.

CENTRAL BOARD NEWS AND NOTES

First a reminder that all Board meetings are open to the public unless sensitive personnel issues are being discussed. Note that Board Meetings are now beginning at 6:30 PM.

The Central Board met twice in February: on the 4th and the 18th. The topics we have been working on are all linked to the 2019-20 goals approved by the Congregation on February 16:

1. To find a new pastor
2. To solidify the new governance structure
3. To conduct five experiments in Worship
4. To conduct three experiments in community building
5. To conduct two experiments in community service

FIRST GOAL: To find a new pastor

Interim Pastor:

We came to an agreement with Rev. Peter-Michael Preble at the end of January, and the congregation voted to call him as an Intentional Interim Pastor (as the bylaws require) on February 16. The Board has been planning welcoming events including:

- an extended coffee hour on March 15, his first Sunday with us
- smaller events to help him become acquainted with the board, staff, and working teams.

The Board plans to make “Pastoral Relations and Concerns” a regular item on its agenda so that any problems that may arise are dealt with promptly in a collegial and positive manner.

We have learned from Rev. Peter that he appreciates the formal liturgies of the church and would prefer not to allow announcements to interrupt the mood of worship. Therefore the Board decided to try displaying announcements on a screen in the narthex as well as in the bulletin. David Brandt and Dale Bouton are working with the Parish Administrator to make that happen. Wendy’s Visitation Reports will move from the Announcement slot to become part of Prayers and Celebrations. On the music front, the choir will also be more consistent about wearing robes.

Settled Pastor:

The Board planned and conducted a workshop on Saturday morning, February 8, designed to help us answer many of the questions on the Church Profile document used during a search for a Settled Pastor. The rough notes have been transcribed and will be shared as soon as an organized version can be prepared.

Chaplain:

The Central Board deeply appreciates all the work that Chaplain Wendy Linares has done to help hold us together during our long transition between pastors. She has filled the roles of pulpit supply, emergency call pastor, and pastoral visitor for many months. Now that we have a regular pastor, her scope of work will be reduced, but we are discussing ways to continue her visitation function. Our shut-ins feel much more connected to our congregation because of her work, and the congregation feels much more connected to our shut-ins. This is a real step forward toward meeting our goals of building a stronger community

SECOND GOAL: To solidify the new governance structure

Central Board

The Central Board is making good progress establishing appropriate new habits and procedures, but we need to improve our communication to the congregation by sending out minutes sooner.

Working Teams

Most working teams are up and running. Many thanks to all the people who have kept everything going during this big governance transition, and especially to Suzanne Munroe who has been guiding the transition from Deacons to ***Sanctuary Team***.

Wendy Linares is coordinating the new ***Visitation Team***, and lay visitors are now going out regularly in addition to her own visits.

Kathy Taylor is leading the new ***Community Building Team*** – this is the group in charge of fostering closer ties within the church community. It includes taking attendance at worship, following up with new visitors and with people who have lapsed to make sure they are OK, and organizing some events to help people get to know each other – especially newer people.

Property Team: Managing this big building continues to be a challenge. Scott Vandewalle, who brings years of experience as a Building Inspector in Salisbury and other North Shore towns, has agreed to help us develop a plan for maintenance. On March 7, Scott will meet with several church members who have had past responsibility for caring for our building to discuss the best way to go forward with our smaller congregation. We will probably form a separate team to assist with ***Rental Management***.

We are beginning to talk about the work of the ***Marketing/Invitation Team***, but will wait to meet until after Rev. Preble arrives, since he has quite a lot of experience in this area. This work area will include advertising, signage, website, livestreaming, Facebook and similar efforts aimed at growing the church.

Policies

The new bylaws require that we put fifteen new policies in place in 2020. Several are done. We are currently working on the Personnel and Sexual Harassment Policies. Document Retention is next in the pipeline. As policies are completed, they are filed in the church office.

Finances

The Board is also making arrangements to get up to speed understanding our systems for bookkeeping and financial reporting. This will be a major focus in March with Assistant Treasurer Peg Round presenting a financial orientation during the March 3rd Board meeting, and a presentation on church finances by consultant Karen McArthur planned for Sunday March 22 after worship.

GOALS THREE, FOUR & FIVE: Experiments in Worship, Community Building and Outreach

The next experimental worship service is scheduled for Sunday, March 8. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall and call on the “Creative Spirit” to create visual images of our identity as a Christian community.

The Visitation, Community Building and Mission/Social Actions Teams are all thinking about experimental projects in their fields. We will hear more from all of them in the next couple of months.

COMING UP IN MARCH:

Dates of Upcoming Meetings:

Tuesday, March 3, 6:30-8:30 in Room 103

- Rev. Peter's first meeting with us
- Rev. Peter requests our participation in UCC project to retire medical debt. He explains, "*The Conference has launched a new initiative aimed at retiring medical debt for low income folks in New England. The idea is they buy medical debt for pennies on the dollar and it alleviates this debt from folks and helps climb out from under it. It has been very successful in other places and so we are launching it here. They have asked for 100% participation from Churches in the Conference for donations Some churches are taking fund from the mission budget etc. The deadline is the Friday after Easter. The Association is matching donations from churches up to \$25,000.*"
- Peg Round provides a financial orientation session for the Board
- Plan response to COVID-19 (social distancing, etc.)

Tuesday, March 17, 6:30-8:30 in Room 103

- Discuss Personnel Policy
- Discuss Sexual Harassment Policy

Sunday, March 22, about 11:15 after worship (during Forward Chats slot)

- Consultant Karen McArthur presents information about church finance
- Presented primarily for the Board and Finance Team but open to all who are interested
- Karen was a Seminarian here from 1985-1987 and would welcome a chance to catch up at coffee hour with anyone who was here at that time.



March 1	Nursery & Godly play
March 8	Nursery & Godly play after Girl Scout recognition
March 15	Nursery & welcome Rev. Peter
March 22	Nursery & Godly Play
March 29	Nursery & Godly Play



Southern New England Conference

United Church of Christ

Living the Love & Justice of Jesus

Dear Friends,

The Southern New England Conference has launched and with it is our commitment to living the love and justice of Jesus. We are excited to share that one of our first actions is to invite you and your congregation to make a difference in the lives of those saddled by medical debt in our region.

To address challenges faced by patients having trouble paying their medical bills, the United Church of Christ teamed up with the New York-based nonprofit, RIP Medical Debt (ripmedicaldebt.org). By joining the mission of RIP Medical Debt, we can help by locating, purchasing, and abolishing unpaid and unpayable medical debt of those in some of the neediest Southern New England communities; including Springfield, MA, Bridgeport and Hartford, CT, and Providence, RI.

We are asking you - as a local church pastor, chair of a mission or justice committee, or an individual with a heart for the mission - to mark the birth of the Southern New England Conference with a contribution. Whether you choose to dedicate a portion of your church's Easter collection, decide to utilize some of your mission budget, or to make a contribution through Facebook, your gift will help by locating, purchasing, and abolishing unpaid and unpayable medical debt of those in some of the neediest Southern New England communities. Thank you!

We want EVERY congregation in the newly formed Conference to participate. Together we can make a huge difference in our neighbors' lives.

With our goal of 100% participation, we are confident that the churches of the SNEUCC agree when we say that this is a philanthropic priority! Please join us by sharing the mission of RIP Medical Debt with your congregations and by making your gift to retire medical debt today.

Will you join us by committing 1% of your church's total income to this critical initiative?

Please mail your congregation's gift by April 17th to one of the offices of the SNEC:

- SNEC Framingham Office, 1 Badger Road, Framingham, MA 01702 *or*
- SNEC Hartford Office, 125 Sherman Street, Hartford, CT 06105

For more details, visit SNEUCC.org or contact [Lee Gagen](#) with any questions.

In gratitude for your generosity and faithfulness,

Rev. Kent Siladi, SNEUCC Bridge Conference Minister

Knitting Notes

Happy Spring and St. Patrick's Day!

GRATITUDE, LOVE and a big THANK YOU to Chaplain Wendy for blessing our Prayer Shawls and baby blankets on February 23.

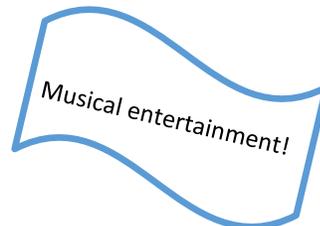
With the shawls and blankets in the church, it brought meaning to all the knitters for their hard work. We are also thankful to Wendy for her delivering the shawls to the shut ins. If you know of someone who is in need of a shawl or blanket, please let the office know. Also, a big THANK YOU to all the knitters in the church for this ministry.

We will be meeting on **March 11 at 1 pm** in the church Parlor. Come and join the conversation.

Ruth Moran



Roast Pork Supper



2nd Congregational Church

35 Conant St., Beverly

Saturday, March 21

5:00 - 6:00 PM

Adults - \$7.00

Seniors - \$6.00

Children - \$3.50

Slice of Home Baked Pie - \$1.50

Menu: Roast pork, applesauce, green beans, mashed potatoes, gravy, coffee, tea, milk, and rolls



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

One Great Hour of Sharing

“Invest in Futures”

March 22, 2020



The UCC’s annual *One Great Hour of Sharing* offering will be received on Sunday, March 22. Together we are investing in communities world-wide: providing education to girls and boys, empowering communities through vocational training, supporting microcredit lending and seeing people through to self-sufficiency, empowering families with skills to support themselves and their neighbors, and participating in sustainable solutions that offer dignity to all. These are just a few ways the OGHS offering touches God’s children, in addition to disaster relief and refugee initiatives.

Through your generosity, the world is a better place. But more is needed. On March 22nd you have an opportunity to plant seeds into the lives of others. Be a co-worker with God; building, planting, watering and trusting that God gives growth to all good gifts shared in faith. Offering envelopes will be placed in the pew holders for your gifts.