



# The Spire

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

Rev. Lisa Stedman, Pastor & Transitional Minister  
Directors of Music: Mr. Charles Turner & Ms. Nancy Rexford  
Chaplain: Ms. Wendy Linares

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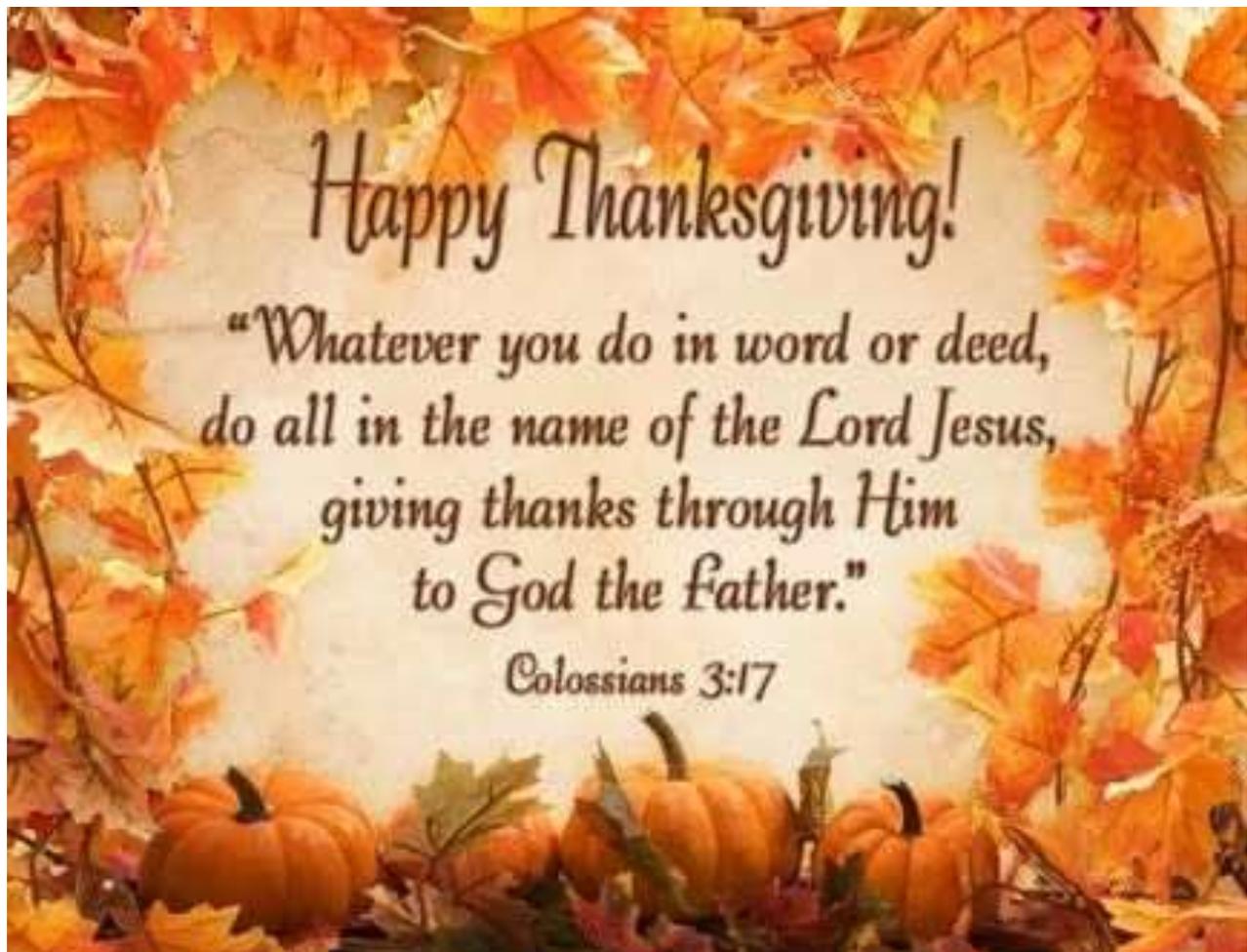
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## NOVEMBER WORSHIP

Sunday worship continues in the Sanctuary at 9:30am. For those who are not ready to return to in-person worship, we invite you to join our live-streamed services on Zoom or to watch the recorded services on YouTube at your convenience.



### Sunday, Nov. 7 – Stewardship Dedication with Communion in the Sanctuary

Preaching: Rev. Lisa Stedman

Prayers: Rev. Wendy Linares

Music: Hymns & Music with Music Directors Nancy R & Charles T and a variety of bells and chimes and drums

NO Coffee Hour

Forward Chat – Summing Up our Listening & Sharing Sessions

*We invite anyone who wishes to join in an opening Drum Circle to come at 9:05 to prepare. If you have your own drum, please bring it. Some provided.*

### Sunday, Nov. 14 - Worship in the Sanctuary

Preaching and Prayers: Rev. Wendy Linares

Music: Hymns & Music with Music Directors Nancy R & Charles T and a variety of bells and chimes...

Coffee Hour on zoom (no coffee hour in person)

Pastor Lisa Stedman will be on vacation this weekend.

### Sunday, Nov. 21 – Thanksgiving Sunday Worship in the Sanctuary

Preaching: Rev. Lisa Stedman

Prayers: Rev. Wendy Linares

Music: Hymns & Music with Music Directors Nancy R & Charles T and a variety of bells and chimes

Coffee Hour on zoom (no coffee hour in person)

### Sunday, Nov. 28 – First Sunday of Advent - Worship in the Sanctuary

Preaching: Rev. Lisa Stedman

Prayers: Rev. Wendy Linares

Music: Hymns & Music with Music Directors Nancy R & Charles T and a variety of bells and chimes

Coffee Hour on zoom (no coffee hour in person)

### LIGHT OF THE WORLD

During November the Church Spire will be illumined in memory of **Richard & Carolyn Farley** by their daughter Debra.



### TREE OF LIFE

God's Blessings upon **Elijah Forrest Scheidegger** born October 11 to Corrine Johnson & Jon Scheidegger. Theresa & Will Dickson are the proud grandparents.

**Mary Sue & Roger Wonson** have moved to Ledgewood at 87 Herrick Street #306, Beverly MA 01915. Mary Sue will turn 100 on December 14 and you are invited to send her a card. Since she tires easily the family is asking that birthday visits be spread out throughout November, December and January. Mary Sue & Roger are grateful for the 73 years of love they have received from friends in Second Church.

**Anna Stadtmueller** has moved close by her daughter at 1050 Main Street, Hellertown PA 18055. Anna was a faithful monthly community supper volunteer and pie baker extraordinaire!



## A TIME FOR GRATITUDE

**Gratitude** is extended to **Michael Pirrotta**, a member of the Beverly Community, upon driving by Second Church noticed the lawn needed attention and he stopped and mowed the lawn and trimmed some of the bushes. Thank you, Michael for being such a good neighbor!

**Gratitude** to all who donated in support of *Family Promise NS Boston's* September expenses. We reached our goal of \$1,000! Area churches are making monthly financial commitments to assist them in their ongoing efforts supporting area homeless families.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP BOOTSTRAPS

### Provide a Thanksgiving Dinner

When there's so much to be thankful for, it feels great to share that with others. If you would like to help your neighbors enjoy a happy Thanksgiving, please sign up to donate to the Fixin's for the *Feast Thanksgiving* meal program. Fill a bag with items listed below and drop it off curbside at 35 Park Street on Saturday, **November 13**. **Sign up is required at:** <https://bit.ly/fixins2021>.

\*French's fried onions \*cranberry sauce  
\*canned gravy \* chicken broth \*cream of mushroom soup \*instant mashed potatoes (family size) \*canned green beans \*stuffing mix \*cake mix/frosting, brownie mix or quick bread mix

### Think December holidays



You are invited to join in the joy of giving in the *Adopt-a-Family Holiday Gift* program, providing holiday gifts to a family in need. You must contact the Development Coordinator [Development@BeverlyBootstraps.org](mailto:Development@BeverlyBootstraps.org) to sign up and view family profiles. You can choose the family that speaks to your heart and shop with their personal wish list.

## Pastor's Ponderings

As we move into November and toward Thanksgiving, we reflect on the things and the people for which we are grateful. I am deeply grateful for the opportunities we have to be together as a church – in worship, in prayer, and in gatherings that look toward the future of this faith community. I've been especially appreciative of the sharing that you all have engaged in this last month, and the courage, loving kindness and respect with which you have done so. As we enter into the spirit of thankfulness, I invite you to join me in practicing gratitude on a daily basis. This may mean making a list each day of 5 things for which you are grateful, or renewing your own daily prayers so they focus on giving praise and thanks to God, or reading poetry that helps us to hear and understand the perspectives of others on gratitude...

In this last spirit, I am delighted to share a poem by Amanda Gorman, the inaugural Youth Poet Laureate of the U.S.. Written in 2018, Amanda shares what the holiday means to her. (If you don't care to read the whole poem, simply read the last 2 stanzas which are in bold...) Better yet, hear Amanda's own amazing recitation of the poem, at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NwdsaxqJut4>.

### The Republic Gives Thanks

In 1863, deep in the Civil War's magnitude,  
Abraham Lincoln called declared a day of gratitude  
Shared by one heart and one voice of America.  
A proclamation for a nation in a nightmare,  
This Thanksgiving dared Americans  
To chime their thanks at a time many believed  
That they had no thanks to give.

Yet is this quirky day now about turkey?  
About a plate full of food?  
Or is it about being grateful  
In more than just attitude?  
The Haudenosaunee/Iroquois remind us  
With one mind, to find the words  
That come before all else,  
because to give thanks is to live it.

It's not just in speech,  
But in each of our daily actions.  
It's reaching across divisions towards a  
Vision of a long, strong house and table  
Where we're able to gather together.

If we dream past pilgrims  
and the mast of the Mayflower,  
It may empower us to bravely learn  
From the People of the First Light,  
To return to Lincoln's fight,

Continued on next page . . . .

To furnish our might by uniting around  
Any piece of peace, no matter how small.

We still hear all these first teachers,  
Called by the will of those still here on this earth,  
Like the Wampanoag, who show us the worthiest  
Way to give thanks for our blessings  
Isn't to hog them, but to give them away.

**It's then, full of this feeling,  
That healing can begin, because maybe  
To be American is to be a kin  
To a courageous hope:  
The trust that even if just for a moment  
We can, we must, close rank as people,  
One heart, one voice, one mind, created equal.**

**Like two vessels meeting at a riverbank anew  
Under the sky's greeting of bright, blank blue,  
You'll begin beside the people who flank you.  
We come to these words before and above all dreams,  
Saying with more love and restored meaning: Thank you.**

#### **Excerpts from Sermon "When Worlds Collide," by Rev. Alan Froggatt, February 14, 2014**

UCC is dependent on the Books of The Bible as it was written way back about 2000 years ago. Back in the age of Christ there were many facts that were unknown to mankind such as the shape of the earth; more continents than the one people knew about at that time. People believed that the earth was flat like a pancake not round like a ball. It wasn't until after year

1500 that Columbus and explorers after him found that there was another continent across the sea. In astronomy the constellations were known and named as they were used for navigation on land and sea. Eclipses were probably known to occur when the sun or moon lined up with each other by a handful of astronomers but they could not admit it or they would be hung.

Charles Darwin surmised in the 1800s from his observation way out on the Galapagos Islands that species could alter their shape, size and trait to survive better with their surroundings by natural selection, if not interfered with species from elsewhere or by "Survival of the Fittest". In astronomy, we now know the Milky Way is a galaxy of over a billion stars each with a planet or more and there are over a billion galaxies. Now you have to believe there is life of some form out there some where on land or in a sea.

It may be necessary for The Protestant Churches to put together a revised Bible with asterisks each followed by a helpful explanation of passages which contain events that are scientifically impossible. In any event we should carry on with our Ministers, past and present, who know the Bible a lot better than I.

In conclusion, I believe we will find life in some form within the next two or three years when they send up the James Web telescope, if they don't determine radio signals from a distant intelligent source sooner.

Bob Mirick

(With thanks to Bob Mirick for the above excerpts; In response to Rev. Lisa's October 10, 2021 Morning Reflections. Complete copies of Rev. Froggatt's sermon are available from the church office..)

## Message from Chaplain: Wendy Linares

Greetings Church Family and Friends! Well, the Autumn season is in full swing. Below find a little poem by Anita Diamant and a reflection by Joyce Rupp. May they spark something deep and helpful to you as we march deeper into the season of letting go and gratitude. Please be in touch with me if you need support, a listening ear, or a shared cup of tea and conversation! Wendy Linares 508 451 7585. [wendylinares60@gmail.com](mailto:wendylinares60@gmail.com).

Warmly, Wendy

### *A Closer Look at Thanksgiving*

If you sit on the bank of a river,  
you see only a small part of its surface.  
And yet, the water before your eyes  
is proof of unknowable depths.

---

ANITA DIAMANT, *The Red Tent*

If you look at a sunset, you might see only the disappearance of daylight.

If you look beneath, you may see darkness opening the splendor of stars.

If you look at illness and disease, you might see only physical diminishment.

If you look beneath, you may see it as a teacher bringing you vital wisdom.

If you look at a broken relationship, you might see only a harsh ending.

If you look beneath, you may see the courageous seeds of new growth.

If you look at lost dreams, you might see only disappointment and doubt.

If you look beneath, you may see the stuff that new dreams contain.

If you look at the death of a loved one, you might see only pervasive sorrow.

If you look beneath, you may see that love lives on forever in the heart.

If you look at the planet's pain and creatures' woe, you might see only despair.

If you look beneath, you may see hope woven in the compassionate care of many.

If you look at yourself, you might see only tarnished unfinishedness.

If you look beneath, you may see your basic goodness shining there.

If you look for the divine being, you might see mostly unresolved questions.

If you look beneath, you may be astounded at the availability of divine love.

Thanksgiving is a time to look beneath our external lives for the unwavering love, the ceaseless peace, and the enduring strength that lie in the deep waters of our soul. The more we trust the "unknowable depths" of our existence, the more the power of gratitude becomes a song we daily sing. With what do you struggle today? What might lie beneath that struggle for which you can give thanks?

JOYCE RUPP



Hello Beautiful Women!

Our next meeting will be on

**Sunday November 21st in the parlor from 10:45 to 12:30.**

After giving it some thought I have decided to hold our meetings at the church building for the next few months. Because of the early dark evenings coming up soon, and because I am having trouble driving at night, and because I think that after settling in at home during the evenings it may not be really enticing to go out again for a meeting, I decided it would make sense to meet at the church building since we will already be there. By meeting right after worship and by wrapping up our time together by 12:30 we will still have a good part of the day left for other things.

This plan is just for Nov, Dec, Jan and Feb. In the Spring we will go back to our regular schedule when the days are brighter for a longer stretch of time and when getting to a meeting will not involve night driving and cold weather. I hope this is workable for each of you and is not too disruptive. Actually, it may work better, as we used to meet this way and at this time a few years ago. I hope to see a lot of you on Nov 21st. in the parlor. The parlor is located on the bottom floor of the building, across from the kitchen.

Warmly, Wendy

Below is a summary of our key financials as reported in the September, 2021 Treasurer's Report:

	<u>YTD Actuals</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Total Budget Income	\$202,781	\$302,206	-\$99,425
Total Pledge Receipts	\$95,596	\$103,836	-\$7,790
Total Budget Expenses	\$222,134	\$244,167	-\$22,033
Total Income less Expenses	-\$19,353	\$58,039	

Over the past few months, our financial situation has continued to deteriorate. The month of September saw the largest deficit in year-to-date income vs. spending that we have seen all year. Pledge receipts are in a deepening hole – average budgeted monthly pledge receipts are \$10,700, but September saw only \$4,100. Traditionally, pledges have picked up once the summer months have passed – let's hope that trend continues!

The preliminary budget figures for 2022 indicate next year could prove to be a "crossroads" year for us financially. We have added approximately \$30,000 of new spending over the past two years (excluding pastor's housing allowance which is paid for by investment income from the sale of P-1) and we are looking at the possibility of adding another \$20,000 of expense for professional guidance in the management of our investment portfolio next year. Our total expenses are quickly outpacing the size of our church and our ability to pay for them.

The current stewardship campaign reflects a level of energy and participation unlike any in the past several years. Rev. Lisa's full involvement has been a breath of fresh air, and the weekly reminders during church have been very visible. Hopefully they will be inspirational as well!

In our discernment process, you are asked to keep our financial condition in mind as you contemplate our future. Individually and collectively, we are all well-intended. The question is, are we well-equipped?

- Mac Donaldson



## Central Board News and Notes:

Minutes 10/19/2021 via Zoom 6:30 - 8:30 PM

Attendees: David Brandt, Nancy Koch, Joyce Mosher, Rev. Lisa Stedman, Jack Terrill, and Andrea Trefry, Absent: Dale Earl, Doug Marquart, Lauren Swiniuch.



**MEETING  
MINUTES**

Opening Prayer by Rev Lisa

The meeting was Chaired by Jack Terrill who also took notes.

Approved Central Board minutes from 9/21/21 regular meeting- taken by Doug Marquart

- **Transition Planning Update**

Session #1: Happy with the attendance and participation (8 on site and 5 on Zoom). Central Board members who were at the session reported that the message was succinct and to the point. Those present indicated it was time for bold changes, that it was no longer time to think, it was time to do.

There are 22 registered for Sunday's session which will be in church after the service and on Zoom. The third session (October 26) expects to have 6 -8 people participating.

There will be personal invites to others who have not registered. In addition, some people are writing their responses and will send them in. There is also the opportunity for one-on-one listening sessions for those who desire that approach. Lisa asked that Central Board members present at the meeting take notes.

A session will be held November 7 to report on what was heard at the Transition sessions.

- **Rev Lisa Status -**

Focusing on Transition for the next 10 days or beyond.

She will be working from home doing Advent worship planning.

She reported that the music staff is considering some musical engagement during service. Have tried humming, rhythm beats, sign language so far.

Children Curriculum - - there is indication that some are opening the online activity sheets (**Picture the Bible**, a set of 52 pictures that depict bible stories by a professional artist.) More info – <http://www.Picturethebible.org>

Hall (UPH) and Lower Parish Hall (LPH). The school has been using LPH for its music classes. Concerns were expressed about the singing occurring there and the lack of ventilation. The school had decided to now use the UPH but needed an area to store musical equipment. Locked space has now been provided upstairs for the school.

Safe Harbor (martial arts) is not returning and will no longer be renting space. Their equipment has been removed.

Waiting to hear if the Triumph Center (after school program) will be returning after the start of the year.

- **Stewardship** – Jack reported that the Stewardship Campaign was launched on October 10<sup>th</sup> and will continue through November 7<sup>th</sup>. It has been integrated with worship where the theme is **Marching to God’s Different Beat**. Key areas:
  - October 10 – was the kickoff and Dale Earl spoke.
  - October 17 - focused on In Reach – care of each other, building etc. and Jack Terrill spoke.
  - October 24 – will focus on Outreach – Missions and our transition steps ahead. A letter and flyer were developed and were sent electronically, and by US Mail to those who prefer that method.
  - Pledges can be returned via email to Jan Allen/Financial Secretary or a phone call to the SCC office (to date 12 – 13 pledges had been received).
  - Follow up emails will be sent, as well as calls if needed, and personalized thank you notes to be sent by the Finance Team.
- **Budget** - Jack reported that a first draft of the 2022 budget had been prepared by Mac Donaldson. A budget must be prepared and voted on at the December congregation meeting. From this first draft, it is evident that pledge receipts from everyone are needed, and we are encouraging people to increase their pledges.
- **Building Use/North Shore Christian School (NSCS) and others** – Jack reported on his meeting with the NSCS principal. As Chair of the Property Team, building and tenant issues are now his responsibility. The primary issue was the use of the Upper Parish

**Mission and Social Action** – Joyce reported that the team had donated to the relief fund set up by the UCC conference for any large storm that may happen. There had been a previous donation to relief for the Haiti storm. She also reported that the team had made a donation to the Pastor’s Fund.

**General discussion**

Theresa asked for input for the November Spire input by October 26.

Meeting was adjourned with a prayer at 7: 15 pm.

Running Action Item List (RAIL)

Action Number	Action Item	Date Open	Date Closed
June 21-01	Dale Earl to review Active/Inactive member list w MJC and correct errors	6/2021	
June 21-02	Doug to contact Keith Linares regarding Safe Serv practices in the kitchen and incorporate into Safe Church policy as appropriate; <b>Doug spoke with Keith 9/22; Keith agreed to investigate.</b>	6/2021	
Sept 21-02	General Action – each team to create 1-2 sentence with a simple description of their scope of responsibility described; <b>several drafts sent to Dale; others requested by early October</b>	8/2021	

## TURKEY DINNER



**Second Congregational Church**

**United Church of Christ**

35 Conant Street, Beverly

**Saturday, November 20**

Menu: turkey, gravy, stuffing, mash

Potatoes & vegetables

Cost: \$7.00 each

Meal in microwaveable container:

1-3pm: pickup at church & delivery

Place orders church office:

978-922-5722 or email:

[parishadmin@beverlysecond.com](mailto:parishadmin@beverlysecond.com)



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

*INVITATION*

1st Church in Wenham, 1 Arbor Street  
presents

**Almost Home**

Friday November 5 at 7pm.



Panel discussion on housing insecurity in the North Shore

- ◆ Rachel Hand, Family Promise North Shore Boston
- ◆ Anna Siedzik, Hamilton/Wenham Human Rights Coalition
- ◆ Meegan O'Neil, Essex County Habitat for Humanity

**Registration: 978.468.4900 and Masks Required. FREE...cash/food accepted to benefit Acord Food Pantry.**