



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

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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More details on film and tickets on page 12

SEPTEMBER 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, Sept. 5 - Communion in the Sanctuary on Labor Day Weekend

Preaching & Prayers: Rev. Lisa Stedman

Music: Hymns & Music with Music Directors Nancy R & Charles T

Coffee Hour on zoom (no coffee hour in person)

Sunday, Sept. 12 – SUNDAY ONE Worship in the Sanctuary

Special Sunday One Activities for All Ages

Preaching: Rev. Lisa Stedman

Prayers: Rev. Wendy Linares

Music: Hymns & Music with Music Directors Nancy R & Charles T and

SCC Bells & Chimes

Coffee Hour on zoom (no coffee hour in person)

Sunday, Sept. 19 – Worship in the Sanctuary with FAMILY PROMISE

Special Guest Speaker: Rachel Held, Family Promise Executive Director

Reflection: Rev. Lisa Stedman

Prayers: Rev. Wendy Linares

Music: Hymns & Music with Music Directors Nancy R & Charles T and SCC Bells

Coffee Hour on zoom (no coffee hour in person)

Sunday, Sept. 26 – Worship in the Sanctuary followed by A Forward Chat

Preaching: Rev. Lisa Stedman

Prayers: Rev. Wendy Linares

Music: Hymns & Music with Music Directors Nancy R & Charles T and SCC Bells

Forward Chat – What's Next for SCC: Transitional Process

(hybrid gathering – in person & on zoom)



An SCC Forward Chat

WHAT'S NEXT FOR SCC in The Transitional Process?

***Sunday, Sept. 26. At 10:45
In person and/or via zoom.***



We hope you will plan to join in this most important gathering and discussion

focusing on the process and next steps of our transitional journey. In addition to putting this on your calendar, all SCC folk are urged to invite other SCC'ers to join in this event!



TREE OF LIFE

Welcome into God's Family: **Lucas Joseph Buba** (child of Christina & Ian Buba), baptized on July 25 and **Caroline Mae Koulouris** (child of Kerri Ann & William Koulouris), baptized August 29.

Christian Love & Sympathy is extended to family & friends of **Wilfred Froggatt** (father to Alan & Deborah), who died August 20.



LIGHT OF THE WORLD

During September the Church Spire will be illumined in loving memory of **Christy Nichols & Grampy Hal** by their family.

A TIME FOR GRATITUDE

Dear Second Church Family: We have been overwhelmed by the outpouring of love and support showered upon our family since our youngest son Matt's passing July 28th. We greatly appreciate all the prayers, cards, notes, and calls as we navigate this very difficult time. Most especially, we want to thank Reverend Lisa, Reverend Wendy, Mary Jane, Charles and Nancy, as well as all the ushers and attendants for the wonderful memorial celebration put together to honor Matt. We also wish to thank David Brandt and Claire Patch for enabling family and friends from across the country and as far away as Thailand to join via SCC's Face Book Live feed. Thank you to our entire Second Church family.

With love, Doug & Cheri Marquart



Pastor's Ponderings

Dear Friends,

It's hard to believe that this is the September Spire!!! I can't figure out what happened to the summer!!

However, here we are... and I'm excited!!

This fall will be full of opportunities at Second Congregational Church and it is my pleasure to invite YOU to be 'a part of it all'!

We'll start the program year with a Sunday One worship service on the second weekend of the month, September 12th. While the resurgence of Covid in the "Delta" form is keeping us from many of the traditional features of this first Sunday back, we will keep the Spirit of returning and rejoicing in being together!! We'll be inviting all our members and friends to join us, either in person (with masks) or via Zoom. The service is designed to be celebratory and family-friendly, with fun music, an activity for all ages insert in the bulletin, and an engaging sermon.

As you will read elsewhere in this Spire, in September we'll also be celebrating our partnership with Family Promise; exploring their new programming and raising funds to support this important work. On Sunday, September 19th, we'll welcome Executive Director, Rachel Hand, as our guest speaker in worship.

Finally, on Sunday, Sept. 26th, following worship, we will hold our first Forward Chat of the year, focusing on the process and next steps of our transitional journey. This will be a very important gathering for all who are wondering "what's next for SCC?"! The plan is to make the event "hybrid" so that all who wish to attend may do so either in person or via Zoom.

You may wonder how we plan to maximize attendance at and participation in all these events. The answers are manifold! First, we'll be sending email and postcard notices to all our members and friends, inviting/encouraging/urging everyone to join and make their voices heard. Second, we'll be trying to reach out with phone calls to try to connect more closely. (If you'd like to volunteer to make calls, please email Rev. Lisa at Revelsucc@gmail.com.) Finally, we are asking each of YOU to help by speaking to everyone you know and encounter and explaining that their presence will be to vitally important to our success! You may have heard once upon a time that "if you build it, they will come," but our idea for this fall is "Let's invite everyone to come, and emphasize how much we value their participation!"

September and the beginning of a new program year are always an exciting time for a church, as we welcome back folks we haven't seen (over the summer and/or during this extended time of 'distancing'). It is my hope and prayer that you will hear and heed the Spirit of God that is alive and well at SCC as it calls you to come and share in the excitement, hope and joy!

See you in September!!

Faithfully,

Lisa

The Rev. Lisa W. Stedman

Pastor & Transitional Minister

Good Reads

Some months, I try to share a few of the many articles that cross my desk/desktop. This month one article rises above as particularly pertinent for SCC. I sincerely hope you will follow the link, read this piece and pray about how you feel it applies to our church in this time! (We will also have hard copies available at church or to mail, if you request one from Mary Jane in the office.)

<https://www.congregationalconsulting.org/a-thousand-tiny-changes/>

A Thousand Tiny Changes

May 17, 2021 by Sarai Rice

"A congregation I love is in the throes of recasting itself.

It has known who it is for decades—a healthy, largely well-to-do mix of young and old members who have learned from each other and loved each other while worshipping in a traditional form and leaning in a progressive direction. But now this solid, celebrated congregation is not working as well as it used to. Attendance was down even before the pandemic, the number of giving units is down, there are fewer young families, and of course no one knows whether people will return post-COVID. Members are beginning to sense that something must change." ... (please read the rest at link or pick up a hard copy from church!)

Message from Chaplain: Wendy Linares

Early Autumn Greetings, Friends!

Well, here we are! Perhaps we're all a little battered and bruised from the past many months but something feels like it's shifting.... maybe its thoughts of still warm days, but with the little chill here and there. I love the Fall with all of its' newness and possibility! Even when we have moved way past the thrill of starting school or the anticipation of wearing a new outfit on the first day, Autumn has so many gifts to share.

Don't you just love the colors, the scent of pumpkin, a cozy blanket, your favorite flannel pjs? Autumn feels like an invitation. It feels like a new idea, an aha moment, and a bit like a rainbow has fallen to earth and decided to drape itself over everything that's been blah or hum drum.

And then there's that undeniable crunch and whirl when we move further along into the season. Who doesn't love the memory of jumping in a freshly raked pile of jewels that someone worked so hard to rake up?

Well, here's hoping and praying that this new season finds each of us renewed of spirit and refreshed in ways that give us newfound hope! Let's each in our way, rise, pick up our mat, and walk toward something new and life giving!

Warmly and With Love, Wendy

Email wendylinares60@gmail.com Phone 508 451 7585



Steven and Vinnie enjoying ice cream sundaes at the group !

NEWS From the Wider Church – The UCC & Beyond

SNEUCC - [Super Saturday](#)

Oct 2, 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM

Online

Building on God's Promises:

A Time of Personal Renewal

3 John 1:2 Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well.

Super Saturday Registration and Workshops Coming Soon! Stay Tuned

Meet Monica A. Coleman



Monica A. Coleman is Professor of Africana Studies at the University of Delaware. She spent over ten years in graduate theological education at Claremont School of Theology and Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. Answering her call to ministry at age 19, Dr. Coleman brings her experiences in evangelical Christianity, black church traditions, global ecumenical work, and indigenous spirituality to her discussions of religion.

Dr. Coleman is the author or editor of six books and several articles that focus on the role of faith in addressing critical social and philosophical issues. Her memoir [Bipolar Faith](#) shares her life-long dance with trauma and depression, and how she discovers a new and liberating vision of God.

Her book [Making a Way Out of No Way](#) is required reading at leading theological schools around the country.

Dr. Coleman speaks widely on navigating change, religious diversity, mental wellness, and surviving sexual and domestic violence.

Sign up for Dr. Coleman's [Free Five Day Devotional](#).

Faith Formation - Resilience, Relationships, Re-Entry

Local church Pastors and Faith Formation practitioners Saturday, **September 18th** from 9am to 1pm **for the** Virtual SNEUCC Faith Formation Summit: Relationship, Resilience, and Re-Entry. Grow your adaptive leadership skills! Free for all FF CoP Facilitators!

For more information, contact [Debby Kirk](#), Faith Formation Team Leader

Registration: <https://www.sneucc.org/eventdetail/15209462?month=9&year=2021&day=1&display=m>

Spire Input, August, 2021

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

	<u>YTD Actuals</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Total Budget Income	\$164,112	\$248,420	-\$84,308
Total Pledge Receipts	\$87,057	\$86,694	\$363
Total Budget Expenses	\$171,309	\$189,907	-\$18,598
Total Income less Expenses	-\$7,197	\$58,513	

Since our last report to you,

1. We sit in the middle of the annual summer financial "pause," when income typically slides a little. At this time, we don't see this as a big problem going forward.
2. We have re-opened our doors to AA, Al-Anon, Scouting and the Triumph Center (soon), so we will begin to see some revenue impact from those activities shortly. All groups are following the COVID guidelines set forth by the Re-opening Task Force.
3. Jack Terrill has agreed to join the Finance Team to fill the slot left open by Roger Moulton's departure. He has prior experience with us, and his presence is most welcome!
4. The Finance Team has continued to work on several Policies, to provide consistency and discipline in regular financial decisions-making
5. Early work has begun on determining our planning assumptions for the 2022 budget. Like last year, this will entail a fair amount of guessing (just not as bad!)

The Finance Team is in search of a couple of volunteers to work with us on this year's Stewardship Campaign. These are not permanent positions on the Team, just interim, project-focused jobs that should last no longer than a few weeks. Please contact Mary Jane Clark in the office if you would like to help out. Thank you!



Central Board News and Notes:

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MEETING MINUTES

Monthly Meeting updates from July and August 2021

The Central Board met on July 20th and again on August 23rd. Though we missed having Lisa with us in July due to her back injury, we briefly continued a discussion from a joint meeting with the Pastoral Search Team. There was agreement that we need to reconsider where we are in SCC's search, and consider a broader approach to the transition, acknowledging the huge changes we've faced through many months of disruption due to COVID-19 and the changes in pastoral staff. At our August meeting last week, Lisa presented a draft Transition Process (more about what's ahead in Lisa's report elsewhere in this Spire).

Work continues on a variety of policies that are being updated. Review of our Safe Church Policy is in progress and the Finance Team is readying a group of updated policies for a final review and approval before forwarding them to the Central Board. All current policies are available on our Weebly website and in the church office.

The Property Team regrouped for a meeting in mid-August to determine the best way to organize themselves and other volunteers to distribute the work. Without parsonages to deal with, the focus is now just on our church building. They determined five areas that require ongoing planning and implementation: 1) Inspections, 2) Energy Usage, 3) Building Interior, 4) Building Exterior, and 5) Landscaping. Immediate concerns are some minor tree work (scheduled) and the condition of our sanctuary windows (information and estimates are being gathered). Jack Terrill is currently chairing the team and also serves as the liaison from the Central Board. Taking care of our property is an important job and the work of the Property Team is very much appreciated.

On the technology front, David Brandt and Lisa have been working with SNEUCC conference Digital Minister, Eric Elley, to continue to find ways to fine tune improvements to the sound quality on all the platforms we currently utilize to broadcast our services.

Lastly, our Reopening Task Force continues to evaluate any needed changes to our COVID-19 guidelines. At present, we are staying with the procedures adopted in May regarding numbers of people using our various areas, spacing between people and other aspects of building use such as cleaning. As of July 1, several groups have returned but are occupying space at different times or will use separate entrances. All are glad to be back even with the necessary restrictions. And our custodian is attending to the enhanced cleaning requirements. Our largest building user, the North Shore Christian School, resumes classes right after Labor Day with teachers returning the week before.

Zoom to Prayer continues Tuesdays, 10 a.m. and Thursday's Afternoon Gathering is held at 4 p.m.

The next meeting of the Central Board will be on Tuesday, 9/21 at 6:30 via Zoom. If you are a non-board member wishing to attend, a link will be sent by email at your request to drearl@comcast.net.

Agendas and Minutes of the CB meetings are stored on this website: <https://bev2board.weebly.com/>

A poster with a textured, light blue-grey background. The title 'TRAINING FOR UCC CHURCHES: SERVING AFGHAN REFUGEES' is written in large, bold, black, sans-serif capital letters. Below the title, the date and time 'Saturday, September 11 | 5-6:30 PM Eastern' are written in a smaller, black, sans-serif font.

TRAINING FOR UCC CHURCHES: SERVING AFGHAN REFUGEES

Saturday, September 11 | 5-6:30 PM Eastern

This hour and a half training builds on the new toolkit Welcoming and Advocating for Afghan SIVs and Other Afghan Refugees, tailored for UCC congregations that want to engage effectively in support for Afghan SIVs and other Afghan refugees being re-settled to the United States.

The training will include stories and insights from refugees resettled by UCC churches, UCC churches who have built successful refugee ministries, and migration professionals concerning effective ways that churches can make an impact.

Registration:

<https://ucc.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0qf-gtqz8vEtc7RKy0qESIHRhsuudsk5X4>



Family Promise North Shore Boston's shelter program may look a lot different in its temporary home at 8 Rantoul Street, but Family Promise and Second Congregational Church's joint commitment to the families remains the same: to provide a safe and welcoming environment that supports each family's resilience and efforts toward securing long-term housing.

During the month of September, Second Congregational Church will be caring directly for shelter guests and other families participating in Family Promise programs in two ways:

1. Collecting financial donations to meet our pledge of \$1000. All donations collected through this fundraiser will go directly toward the additional rental expenses required to continue the shelter program in 2021 and to providing grocery gift cards for guests, graduates, and families participating in Family Promise's Home Is Here (homelessness prevention) and Turning Point (shelter diversion) programs. Please donate at <https://bit.ly/SCCFP2021>. Every little bit helps!
2. Gathering a handful of volunteers to assist with gardening and lawn care needs at 8 Rantoul Street during the second half of September. Dates are flexible. Please contact Katie at katie@familypromisensb.org or Gail at gailgoodell@comcast.net if you would like to spend a couple of hours ensuring the outdoor space at the temporary shelter will continue to be enjoyed by shelter guests.

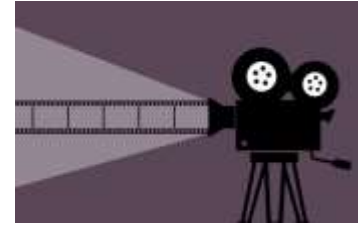
Please join us on Sunday, September 19 for an update from Executive Director Rachel Hand about Family Promise families, programs, and volunteer opportunities, and our hopes for how our partnership with Family Promise may evolve going forward.



NS Community Screening of A Reckoning in Boston at The Cabot on September 23rd

Dear Friends of Faith:

I am excited to announce a North Shore screening of the explosive new documentary about racial injustice, *A Reckoning in Boston* by award winning filmmaker James Rutenbeck.



It will be taking place at The Cabot in Beverly on Thursday, September 23rd at 7:00 pm. The 80 minute film will be followed by an hour long conversation with the filmmakers.

Do you have a racial or social justice committee or are looking to form one? The film very powerfully explores systemic racism, economic inequality, street violence, trauma, and lack of affordable housing in Boston by looking at the lives of Kafi Dixon, Carl Chandler and others in Dorchester. The film touches a deep emotional core that goes beyond book knowledge and intellect. There is a lot to unpack in the film and it lends itself to personal reflection, group discussion and prayer.

Boston Globe film critic Ty Burr wrote of the film: “This is a must see – especially for white audiences.” I couldn’t agree more and will add, as a lay minister, that I found it very valuable to watch as a community of faith.

It leads one to ask the questions the white filmmaker asked himself – what is my part in systemic racism and how can I repent? How can I join my brothers and sisters, like Kafi and Carl, in working to dismantle it?

Our North Shore Deanery of 14 Episcopal churches took part in a private screening and conversation with the filmmakers in April. I am not exaggerating when I say that it was life changing. Never again could the 100+ viewers say that they didn’t know what is happening in Boston and our nation.

The film was so powerful, that multiple ministers preached about Kafi, Carl and racism the next day – including Rev. Manny Faria of St. Peter’s Beverly, who will be moderating the Q & A with James Rutenbeck and Kafi Dixon.

Please consider bringing a group – your youth group, social justice committee, leadership. Teens and adults young and old would benefit. Our St. Peter’s Becoming Beloved Community Team with St. John’s Gloucester spent several sessions exploring the issues raised by the film, including the legacy of bussing in Boston.

You can learn more about the film and watch the trailer here: www.areckoninginboston.com

Tickets cost \$9.75 for students and seniors and \$10.25 for adults. Groups will receive a 10% discount. Purchase tickets here: <https://thecabot.org/event/a-reckoning-in-boston-with-filmmaker-discussion>

Peace, Deborah

Deborah Gardner Walker

Executive Committee, North Shore Deanery



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



**Spirited Women will meet on
Wed Sept 15 at 6:30 pm.
We will meet in the Chapel at church.**

Please enter thru the main doors near the sanctuary. All women are welcome! Program to be announced. Hope to see you there!