



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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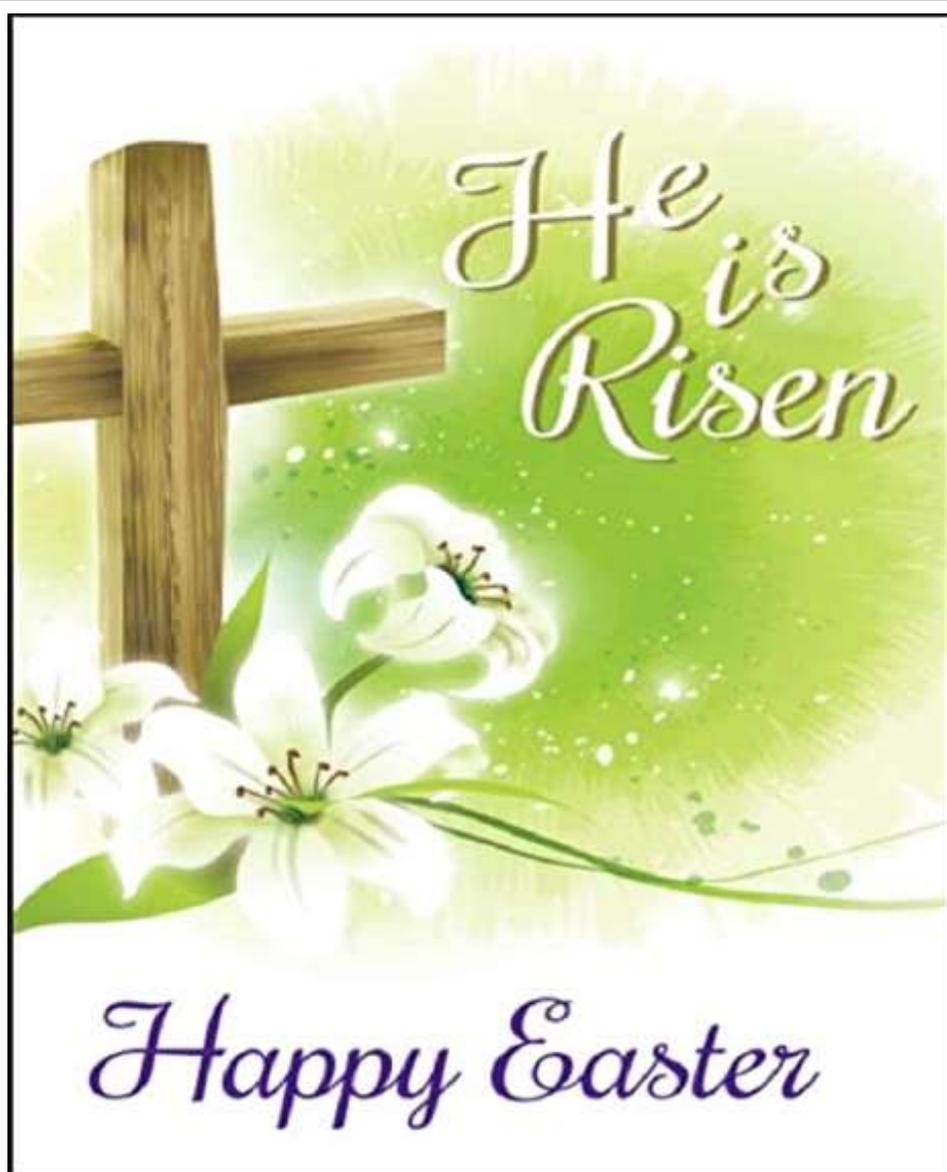
Email: parishadmin@beverlysecond.com

Web site: www.BeverlySecond.com

www.facebook.com/BeverlySecond

VOLUME LVI, ISSUE 19

April, 2021



~APRIL WORSHIP CALENDAR~

Sunday Worship continues to be pre-recorded and viewed at 9:30am, via YouTube. The link will be sent to you that day. Contact church office if you'd like to be added to the list. The link is also posted: www.facebook.com/beverlysecond.com.

Services can be viewed at your convenience on Facebook following designated time.

- 1 Maundy Thursday, 7pm**
Reflection: Rev. Wendy Linares
- 2 Good Friday, 7pm**
Reading: Rev. Wendy Linares
- 3 Easter, 9:30am**
Sermon: Rev. Judy Brain
"Meet the Gardener"
- 11 Second Sunday of Easter**
Sermon: Rev. Lisa Stedman
- 18 Third Sunday of Easter**
Sermon: Rev. Lisa Stedman
- 25 Fourth Sunday of Easter**
Sermon: Rev. Lisa Stedman



THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

During April the Church Spire will be illuminated by Judy Andrews Eramo, in loving memory of Mother **Ruth Andrews** and son **David Kuell**. It will also be lit in loving memory of **Michael Donlin** by Gail & Tom Pease.



TREE OF LIFE

Christian Love & Sympathy is extended to family of **Gino Molino** (grandfather to David Molino), who died March 18.

Susan Nichols wishes to extend appreciation for all the get well wishes she received from her church family.

ANNUAL REPORTS

Church Officers, Staff, Central Board, Working Teams and Reps are reminded to prepare a report reflecting the past year's accomplishments and challenges (April 2020-present time). Submit to church office: parishadmin@beverlysecond.com

We are happy to Welcome - Rev. Lisa Stedman

From Rev. Lisa Stedman:

My greatest joys in ministry are encouraging all people to know that they are God's beloved children, and sharing thanks and praise to God in worship. As a life-long United Church of Christ member, I deeply appreciate the community, service, and justice emphases we share as a church and denomination. I also love just hanging out with folks of all and every age, and talking or playing and even praying together!

I am committed to helping churches in pastoral transition as they seek to engage an increasingly secular society while continuing our long history of deeply faithful worship, of service to community and world, and of nurturing spiritual growth in folks of all ages. As our world and culture change, I strongly believe that the church must also change to ensure that people feel welcomed, affirmed, and cared for, just as they are. It is a privilege to work with churches in this process.

My love for God and church began as a child, waned in my teenage & college years, and came back as a great surprise to me as a young adult. I have served as a pastor, interim pastor, and non-profit social justice program director in Massachusetts and New Hampshire during my 37 years in ministry. I hold an undergraduate degree from The College of Wooster (Ohio) in Philosophy and Economics, and a Masters of Divinity from Yale Divinity School (CT).

I live in Danvers, Mass. with my spouse of 36 years, Johanna ("Jo") Hattendorf, a former UCC pastor, whose ministry now takes the form of multidimensional healing and teaching, with a specialization in helping those recovering trauma. We enjoy spending time with family and friends, vacationing in our beloved Adirondack mountains, gardening, reading, and playing/cuddling with our dear companion animals – currently Toby the dog and a cat named Grayson.

With joy,
Lisa



Dear Members and Friends of SCC Beverly,

I'm very excited to be joining you in early April as your Pastor & Transitional Minister! In my 22 years on the north shore, I've driven past the church many times and wondered about you and your ministries. I am hopeful that we will do great work to move you forward on your journey toward God's bright future.

As I write this, I am just concluding a 2+ year interim with the Deerfield Community Church UCC in Deerfield, NH. This was the 7th interim I have served – all in the UCC, all in eastern Massachusetts and NH. I am passionate about helping congregations in transition and resourcing them as they explore their identity and their future. I am also deeply committed to being a pastor to the people and churches I serve.

Especially in the past year and going forward, I believe everyone needs good, compassionate care in their spiritual community. It is my privilege and pleasure to share in offering that. I look forward to getting to know you, as a community and individually, and learning how I can be of support.

I also love worship and look forward to working with your terrific existing staff to create meaningful worship experiences, on-line and in person (hopefully not too long from now!!).

In the meantime, I send you many blessings as we make our way through the end of Lent and Holy Week. I'll see you just after Easter!



In faith,

Lisa

The Rev. Lisa W. Stedman

Message from Chaplain: Wendy Linares

Spring Greetings Everyone!

Well, it sure feels like Spring today as I compose this message! It is my hope that you are finding a bit of renewal as we enter into the new season. It's exciting to see that flowers are popping through the ground. On my walks I have seen lots of crocus, snowdrops, and tulips (at least the green parts!) and they feel like messengers reminding us that we, too, can push through the hard stuff and come to life again, in new ways.

Red winged blackbirds are back and their distinct cry and beautiful red barred wings are something to behold. Just yesterday I was thrilled to hear the Spring peepers, also known as Chorus frogs, making their presence known the other day right in back of the cemetery behind the church building.

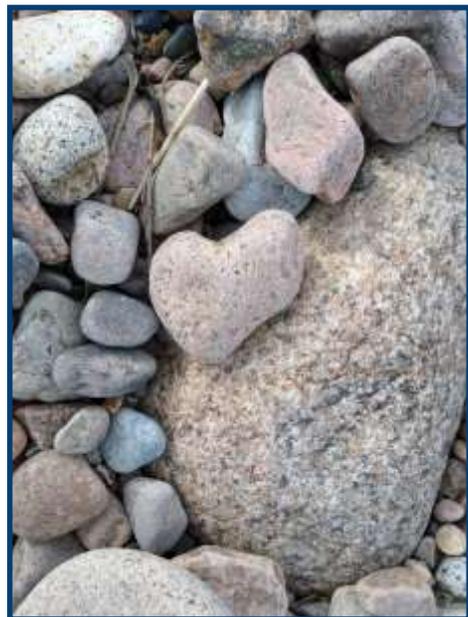
There is still a kid in me, maybe a child of wonder, who still gets excited by the little and not so little gifts that nature wings our way. Be on the lookout, yourself! Even if you are not able to get outside very much, peering out the window can open up a whole new world if you are willing to be astonished. If you get a chance sometime, you might just see what God, the Most Amazing Artist, can do with a cloud floating by. Be willing to find an animal, or a tree, or a person, in the big fluffy cloud passing by.

One day, when I was feeling a little down, myself, I saw a cobweb stretching from our windowsill to the corner of the window frame. Just as I was about to sweep it away with my hand, as I moved ever so slightly, I was blessed with seeing every color of the rainbow on a single thread of the cobweb as the light caught it just so.

Whatever place you find yourself in, on any given day, there is still so much beauty in this crazy world. God, the Author of Wonder, keeps showing up in a myriad of ways!

Be on the lookout! And then share the good news with someone.

Warmly and With Love, Wendy



Email wendylinares60@gmail.com Phone 508 451 7585

Spire Input—Mac Donaldson

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

	<u>YTD Actuals</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Total Budget Income	\$59,451	\$76,499	-\$17,048
Total Pledge Receipts	\$51,394	\$43,839	\$7,555
Total Budget Expenses	\$49,536	\$54,258	-\$4,722
Total Income less Expenses	\$9,915	\$22,241	

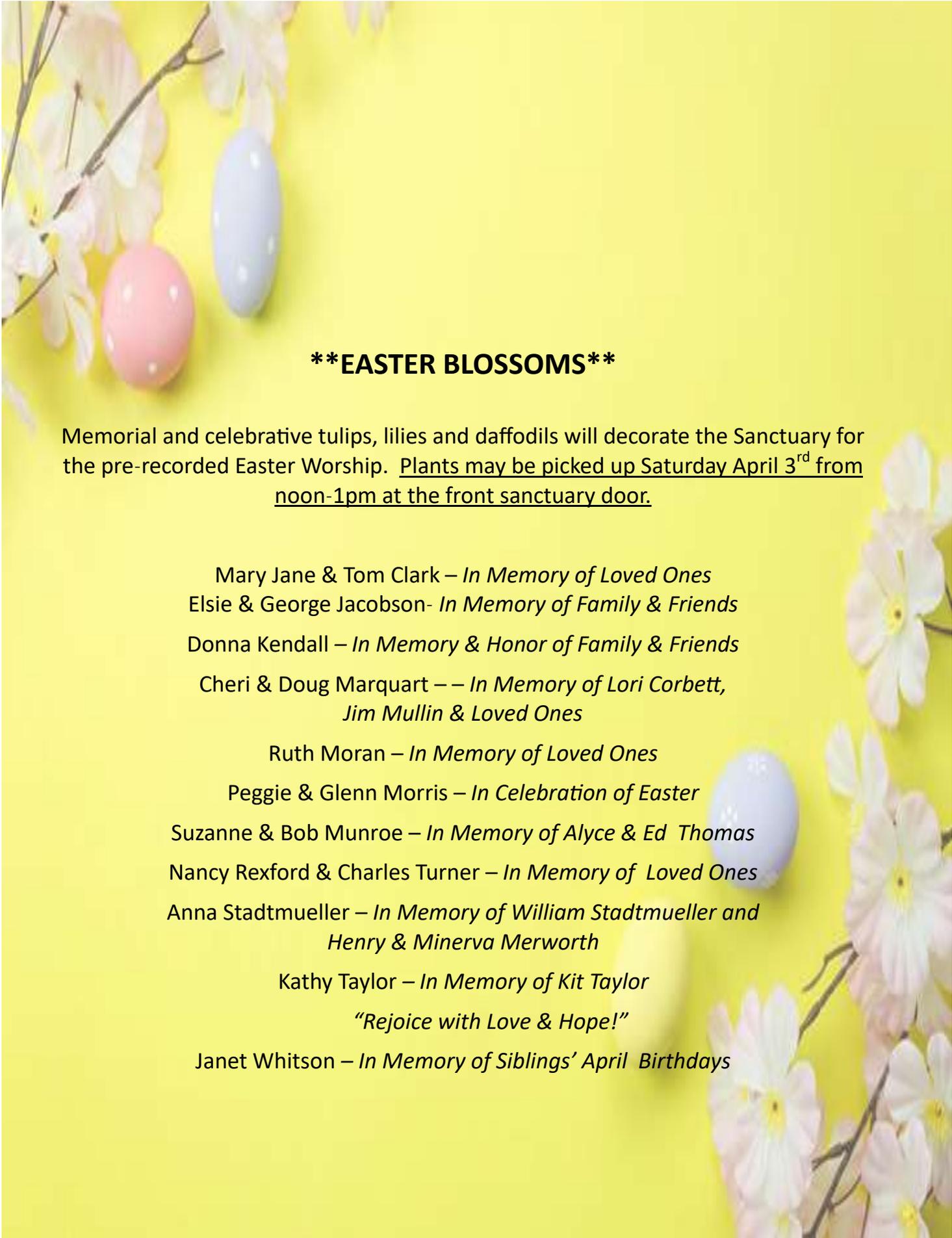
As previously reported, total pledge receipts (above) are ahead of plan due to pre-payments made last year against this year’s commitments. Pledge receipts for the current year are actually trailing YTD budget by about \$2,000.

During these seemingly endless winter months, your Finance Team has been busy on a number of fronts

1. We have taken on the task of writing numerous Policies called for in the by-laws. This process is underway and is expected to wrap up in early summer. There are eleven policy topics currently in process, with the potential for an additional few. These policies will be on file in the church office for anyone to review when we are done.
2. Dave Varga has initiated an application for a second federal “PPP” loan under the new administration. If you’ll recall, we were granted a similar loan last year, to the tune of just over \$26,000. Repayment of that loan was eventually forgiven, and those funds went a long way toward helping us cover payroll and other costs. We are hopeful for a similar experience this year.
3. We have also been involved in deliberations about the compensation package for the new Interim Pastor. This has involved not only consideration of UCC guidance, but also discussion about how to best use the proceeds from the sale of P-1 in support of the pay package.
4. We have also continued to expand our search for someone internal to perform an audit of our financial practices. It has been many years since an audit was done. We are presently close (we hope!) to getting an agreement from a volunteer for this task.

The Finance Team is looking forward to the arrival of Lisa Stedman in April, and we will make ourselves available to help her hit the ground running in any way necessary when she gets here.





****EASTER BLOSSOMS****

Memorial and celebrative tulips, lilies and daffodils will decorate the Sanctuary for the pre-recorded Easter Worship. Plants may be picked up Saturday April 3rd from noon-1pm at the front sanctuary door.

Mary Jane & Tom Clark – *In Memory of Loved Ones*
Elsie & George Jacobson- *In Memory of Family & Friends*
Donna Kendall – *In Memory & Honor of Family & Friends*
Cheri & Doug Marquart – – *In Memory of Lori Corbett,
Jim Mullin & Loved Ones*

Ruth Moran – *In Memory of Loved Ones*

Peggie & Glenn Morris – *In Celebration of Easter*

Suzanne & Bob Munroe – *In Memory of Alyce & Ed Thomas*

Nancy Rexford & Charles Turner – *In Memory of Loved Ones*

Anna Stadtmueller – *In Memory of William Stadtmueller and
Henry & Minerva Merworth*

Kathy Taylor – *In Memory of Kit Taylor*

“Rejoice with Love & Hope!”

Janet Whitson – *In Memory of Siblings’ April Birthdays*

Central Board News and Notes:

The Central Board held its monthly meeting on March 16

Plans were finalized to introduce and welcome Rev. Lisa Stedman. A letter from Lisa and a short bio will be printed in the April Spire. A Zoom Forward Chat is also planned for Sunday, April 11, following Rev. Lisa's first Sunday service with us. Please plan to attend to meet and welcome her.



MEETING MINUTES

PARSONAGE The Board voted to appoint Kathy Taylor as agent for upcoming real estate transactions regarding P1. The problem of the missing Deed has been successfully solved following quite a search. There was no Deed in the Safe or Safety Deposit Box. Several people spent time searching electronically at the Registry of Deeds without initial success, and it appeared this could turn into a costly and lengthy process. MANY thanks to Dave Boynton, Jack Terrill, Dave Varga, Mary Jane, and especially to Elaine Roy and Bob Munroe. It truly takes a village and prayers really are answered. After minimal cosmetic painting and general cleaning, the property will hopefully be listed on April 15th by J Barrett Realty.

TECHNOLOGY David Brandt reported that many issues are being addressed. We are hoping to return to live streaming soon. The new intern is doing a good job on the Sunday services. Discussion will continue regarding returning to the Sanctuary and outdoor services.

SEARCH COMMITTEE The Search Committee continues its work and will meet with Rev. Lisa as soon as possible.

FINANCE TEAM Questions on the Call Agreement were resolved. A PPP loan application has been filed. Policy reviews are ongoing with the goal of completion by summer. The Finance Team is in need of additional members.

BY-LAWS REVIEW Andrea Trefry will help coordinate. A Forward Chat is planned for Sunday, April 25th to discuss possible changes. Issues to be addressed include: CB emergency powers, Interim Minister hiring language, Role of the Moderator.

A Letter of Call was completed and signed by Rev. Wendy Linares.

Staff meetings are again being held bi-weekly with Dale Earl attending.

EASTER WEEK Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services will be reflections on Facebook. Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday will be led by Rev. Judy Brain.

GRADITUDE AND THANKS The Board would like to officially recognize Nancy and Charles for the incredible amount of extra time and effort put into the music for Sunday services. The spiritual experience is truly enhanced with the special imagery and effects.

ANNUAL MEETING The Annual Meeting will be held by Zoom on Sunday, May 23rd, to accept annual reports and possible changes to the By-laws. The form for suggesting changes is included in this month's Spire (see page 10). A Forward Chat is planned for April 25th to discuss proposed amendments to the By-laws. There is possible consideration of postponing the Central Board election until fall to facilitate a smoother transition for Rev. Lisa Stedman.

Zoom coffee hours continue on Tuesdays, 10 a.m., and Thursdays at 4 p.m.

The next Central Board meeting is Tuesday, April 13th at 6:30 p.m. 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 Central Board meetings, Congregational meetings, and many other church documents are stored on this website: <https://bev2board.weebly.com/>.



Calling all women in the church family & extended church family join us !

***Wednesday, April 14th from 6:30pm— 8:00pm
for Spirited Women
(link for Zoom gathering will be e-mailed that day)***

The topic will be the spiritual practice of Lectio Divina. It is also known as divine reading. It is a practice that can help to bring us wisdom, and help us to feel direct communion with God. We explored this some time ago, but it is a practice certainly worth exploring again.

We will be using both scripture and poetry. Please join us!

SUGGESTED AMENDMENT WORKSHEET

ARTICLE # _____

My suggested amendment
would need to be a new Article
(put X in box at right)

Section # _____

Paragraph _____

What change do you recommend? Use exact wording if possible.

(continue on back if necessary)

Why?

(continue on back if necessary)

Name (required): _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Church School

Hello Second Church Families,

How are you? The spring weather has been beautiful. I hope you have been able to enjoy some time outside. I am so excited to have had several of our families join us for virtual Easter crafts yesterday! We had a lot of fun together! Here is our schedule for April. Hope to see everyone in April! Happy Easter!

Sunday April 4th Easter (No Sunday School)
Sunday April 11th The Baptism
Sunday April 18th school vacation (no Sunday school)
Sunday April 25th The church

Happy Easter Everyone!

Diana Travers



Knitting Notes

A blessed and happy Easter to all.

Just a note for all , Rev. Goodwin, Head of the UCC Southern region, sent out a plea for Prayer Shawls. He wanted to give them to local responders in the New England Area. At the end of February,

I did mail to him, five of our Prayer Shawls for his use in community service. Hopefully, we will be able to meet again soon and have our knitting chatter.

Ruth Moran



NEEDED

2 BEDROOM APARTMENT FOR CHURCH FAMILY. CONNECT WITH CHURCH OFFICE FOR DETAILS (978.922.5722 OR parishadmin@beverlysecond.com).



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



A combined Scholarship Application for 2021 Rasche & Cannon awards is available and you are invited to connect with office (phone: 978.922.5722 or parishadmin@beverlysecond.com) to have it mailed to you or a student. Deadline for office to receive application, transcript of grades & 3 letters of reference is May 15. Scholarships will be awarded this summer.