

e-Lation!

South Congregational Church, UCC

A Portion of "Let America Be America," by Langston Hughes

*"Who said the free? Not me?
Surely not me? The millions on relief today?
The millions shot down when we strike?
The millions who have nothing for our pay?
For all the dreams we've dreamed
And all the songs we've sung
And all the hopes we've held
And all the flags we've hung,
The millions who have nothing for our pay—
Except the dream that's almost dead today.*

*O, let America be America again—
The land that never has been yet—
And yet must be—the land where every man is free.
The land that's mine—the poor man's, Indian's, Negro's, ME—
Who made America,
Whose sweat and blood, whose faith and pain,
Whose hand at the foundry, whose plow in the rain,
Must bring back our mighty dream again."*



February Moment for Mission



For the month of **February**, the Faith in Action Committee has chosen the NH Food Bank as our Moment for Mission. The NH Food Bank is the only food bank in the state! In addition to providing hunger relief to those suffering from

food insecurity, the NH Food Bank has number of other programs designed to support the community. They provide hands-on educational programs to teach parents and adults with limited food budgets how to shop for and cook healthy meals. The Food Bank also offers a free Culinary Job Training program to people seeking employment in the food service industry. And they maintain a production garden with the goal of providing fresh produce for the culinary program and their soup kitchens, and educating people on how to maintain a garden. To donate to the NH Food Bank, please click on the link below. Thank you for your continued support of the Faith in Action committee.

[Donate Now!](#)

Alison's Legacy

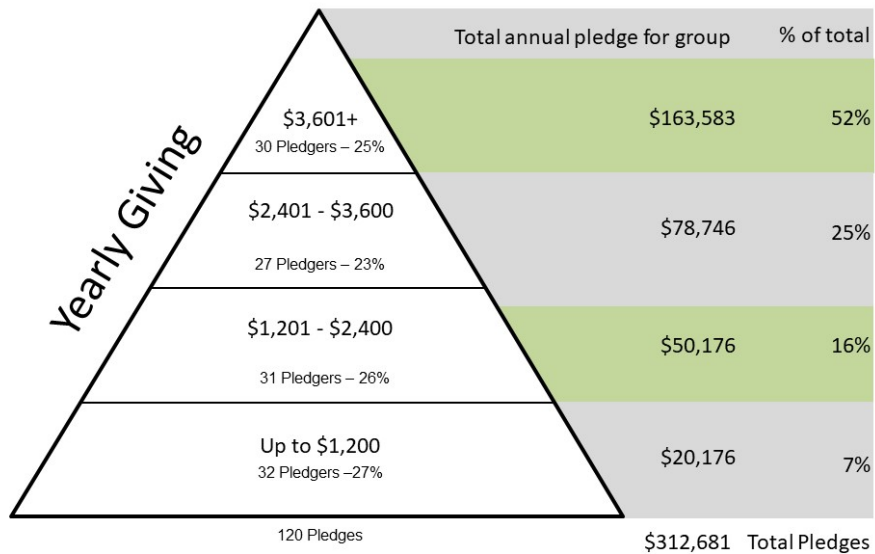
Alison Nyhan was an integral and beloved member of our South Church Community, and she is missed by all.

All donations to South Church made in Alison's name will be used to support the Christian Education Program here. Please ensure all donations have "Alison's Legacy" in the memo.



Pledge Drive 2024-2025!

South Church: 2023-2024 Pledges



Greetings South Church! This year, we ask that you prayerfully consider participating in the pledge campaign, a key part of our planning for the coming year. We're on the threshold of an exciting new chapter in the life of our church. As a new incoming minister prepares to join us later this year, our financial support provides the foundation for a successful transition - and cultivates the conditions for new growth.

Pledges are critical to the financial health of our church. They are different from the loose offerings that you might put in the basket on Sunday morning. Pledges help the church plan for the coming year and ensure its obligations are met. In the 2024 budget (running from July to June), pledges accounted for 67% of the church's budgeted income.

Fortunately, pledging is easy! Submit your pledge online [here](#) or contact the office for a paper copy. Thank you for your generous support of our community!

Breaking Bread: Celebrate Jed's Ministry

Our next Breaking Bread event will be on **Saturday, February 17** at 5:30p.m. Please join us as we celebrate Pastor Jed's ministry! Free RSVP Tickets are available [online](#).



10 Years with Abby Charbeneau!



Abby Charbeneau arrived at South Church in January, 2014. She has been a great gift to South Church over the last 10 years! She is witty, attentive, kind, sympathetic, and perhaps above all else, a woman of faith. She has an uncanny sense of what music will work with each worship service, no matter what the theme. In her own selfless way, she has invited a variety of members and styles of music into the worship, most particularly our very young instrumentalists. Please join us after the 9am service on **February 18**, the first Sunday of Lent, as we hold a special reception for Abby. Cards and monetary gifts may be sent to the church office.

Rev. Jed's Celebrations

Rev. Jed will be retiring this April! We have some exciting (and some secret!) events planned to celebrate Jed and his ministry here at South Church! Keep an eye on future bulletins, our website, and future e-Lations! We will be announcing dates and providing more information soon.



Volunteers Needed!



We are looking for volunteer Ushers and Lay Readers during Sunday morning services!

Ushers arrive 20 minutes early to welcome people at the doors, hand out bulletins, and pass the offertory plates during the service.

Lay Readers read the Scripture passages during worship service. The Scripture is provided the week before service for those who would like time to practice!

Please consider helping with these simple but very important tasks. You can either sign up online [here](#), or by calling Kayla at the office, 603-224-2521. Thank you!

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday is **February 14** this year! There will be two opportunities to receive the mark of the ashes:

Ashes To Go will be offered from 12pm-1pm.

Ash Wednesday Service will take place in the Sanctuary at 7pm.



Message from Lay Ministry Visitors



When some sort of transition, be it happy or sad, has happened in your life, you may get a call from one of South Church's Lay Ministry Visitors offering to pay you a personal visit. If this happens, please know that the intent of the visit is to offer community, connection, and, perhaps, comfort. The Lay Ministry Visitors, who have been trained in compassionate listening, hope to embody both South Church's caring for you and God's love for you. Even if you don't feel the "need" for a visit, feel free to accept a Lay Ministry Visitor's offer, for this ministry of comfort, caring, and connection is intended as a gift to you.

With the recent loss of Alison and the upcoming departure of Jed, there is much grief that we at South Church are facing. If you know of someone in the congregation who may want a visit, and/or, if you yourself would like to talk with a Lay Minister, for any reason, please contact:

Toni Callahan (603-568-0559)

Kathy Daniels (603-738-6669)

or Ellen Fries (603-568-5880)

Genesis Thank You

On behalf of Genesis Circle, Lorraine and I would like to thank all of the members of the congregation who so generously supported Genesis Circle during our fundraising quilt raffle. Sue Noel was the lucky winner!

Blessings,
Edie Dimick and Lorraine Fournier



Family Promise



Greetings to our wonderful Family Promise Volunteers! Our next host week is **February 18-25**. We will be hosting families here at South Church. We need all kinds of volunteers to make this week successful for our families! Please volunteer by signing up [here](#).

UCC EVENTS

Cindy Bradley Retirement Celebration

Join us on **March 6, from 3pm-6pm at the Conference Office**, as we celebrate the retirement of our beloved Administrative Assistant, Cindy Bradley. After nine years of dedicated service to our Conference, Cindy will be retiring effective March 15, 2024.

We are immensely grateful for Cindy's contributions, which have helped our Conference thrive. This celebration is a small token of our appreciation for her unwavering commitment and hard work.



If you are unable to make the March 6 date, we ask you consider writing her a letter thanking her for her many years of service! Please mail your letters to 140 Sheep Davis Road, Pembroke, NH 03275 c/o Thaddeus Sieverding.

We look forward to seeing you at the celebration as we honor Cindy's remarkable journey with us!

Prepared to Serve 2024

Donations so far:

\$2,215

\$15,000

Prepared to Serve is partnering with Church World Service (CWS) in an effort to create *600 period packs at our event* on **February 24, 2024**.

With more than 32 million women and girls not being able to afford tampons and other hygiene supplies they need; Church World Service creates period packs that are sent to places after natural disasters and to shelters to help families who have been displaced. *A period pack costs \$25 to make*. We are asking you to consider making a donation to cover the cost of two period packs (\$50). Please consider helping us reach our goal. Let's help end period poverty in America!

[Donate here](#) or during registration.

Horton Center Scholarships Available

Did you know that Horton Center is one of Rekindling Curiosity's eligible summer programs? Financial support is available through this NH program to help get our kids back to camp! Spots are limited, so don't delay!



Learn more on [their website](#).

Lent 2024: Minneapolis to Palestine



Are you ready to rise up for racial justice this Lent? Join the Movement invites you to explore *The Risk of Being Woke: Sermonic Reflections for Activists* by Curtiss Paul DeYoung, a book that offers biblical insights and spiritual nourishment for activists in the wake of George Floyd's murder. You'll also learn about the connections between the Movement for Black Lives and Palestinian liberation, and how to follow the liberating path of Jesus in today's context. Don't miss this opportunity to deepen your commitment and capacity for racial justice work - learn more [here!](#)

Star Island Registration is Open!

We can't wait to greet you on Star Island in the 2024 summer season!

There are two UCC weeklong adult/ family and youth conferences, Star Gathering; and a Star Gathering Family Weekend. All details on the website.

Register now:

<https://starisland.org/programs/>



Regional Youth Event 2024!

The New Hampshire Conference is planning to have a delegation of youth from across the state attend the Regional Youth Event July 28-31. Significant scholarship support will be offered (details to be announced in the next couple of weeks.) If you would like to be a part of the New Hampshire team attending the Regional Youth Event, please go ahead and [register](#) and then please send a copy of your

NEW ENGLAND
Regional Youth Event
July 28-31 // Silver Lake in Sharon, CT

Registration
is now
OPEN!

Stretch.Pray.
Serve.Play.Sing.
Worship.Grow

For Grades 7-12 +
and their youth leaders

LOVE>FEAR



SILVER LAKE
Adventure Center

registration confirmation to
grankin@nhcucc.org.

The code for early bird discount through
Jan 31 is **EARLY24**.

South Congregational Church, UCC | 27 Pleasant Street, Concord, NH 03301

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