

e-Lation!

SOUTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC



Dear South Church Members and Friends,

We've certainly been through quite the time together during the past several months. We have shared memories and hopes, laughter and tears, grief and joy, music and cookies, and the list goes on and on. We are a strong, loving, vibrant, and resilient community with so much to

offer to a world that is aching to hear some good news.

My prayer for us during this “bridge time” in between our called pastors is that we can rest and reflect so that we may replenish and renew— as individuals, families, friends, and as a congregation.

My hope as your Bridge Pastor is to be available for pastoral needs, some administrative responsibilities, and to lead us in worship that supports and strengthens us.

I have a dedicated pastoral phone number: **603-496-7184**. Please feel free to call or text this number to reach me directly.

Bridge times are important. As I see it, all of Christianity is a kind of bridge holding together the past, present, and the not yet. Jesus lived as a bridge between humanity and divinity. The church of the past has built a bridge to the present, and we build a bridge to the future.

So, don't underestimate the importance of rest and renewal. With gratitude for all who have led us here, we will replenish and move forward together to welcome Pastor Tayna on **Sunday, June 9**.

Rev. Leanne Tigert



April Moment for Mission

The April Moment for Mission is the UCC One Great Hour of Sharing. This year's theme is "Share the Light". When we participate in One Great Hour of Sharing: We offer hope to people forced to flee their homes in search of safety and new promise.

We support life-giving recovery efforts when disasters devastate communities and lives. We empower partners worldwide in their labors to build sustainable futures. We plant seeds of peace where war has multiplied despair and destruction. Our communities and world need these blessings so very much right now. Our role as faithful light-bearers carries a witness of love and hope and persevering possibility that counteracts the cynicism, hatred, and hopelessness that are all too prevalent in this moment. The Faith in Action Committee hopes you'll consider giving to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering this year with a spirit of joyful generosity. Thank you for 'bringing out the God-colors in the world' by generously sharing your OGHs gifts. This is why we are here: to be shining witnesses of uncommon love and enduring hope and to be generous with our lives.

Volunteers Needed!

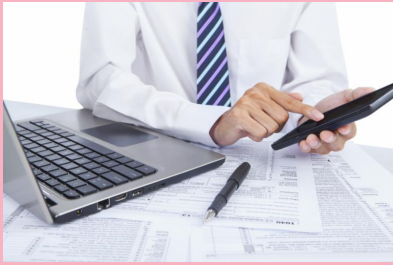
We are still looking for Worship and Nursery volunteers!

- **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!
- **Nursery Volunteers** help with childcare during service at 9am or 10am. We need volunteers to offer childcare to churchgoers!



When we have two services, volunteers can sign up for either the 8am or 10am service. Please consider helping with these simple but very important tasks.

[Worship Volunteer Sign-Up](#)



Office Coverage Needed!

Kayla will be out of office from **Monday, May 6** until **Wednesday, May 14**. We are looking for volunteers to answer phones and generally “man” the office for a few hours during this week. Duties would include answering phones, greeting visitors, and potentially light office work such as folding bulletins. Volunteers would *not* be needed for a full 8-hour day; we would be grateful for any amount of time you are available. Please sign up by clicking the link below.

[Office Vacation Coverage Sign-Up](#)

Family Promise

Family Promise of Greater Concord is looking for volunteers to help staff the Day Center on the weekends! Day Center is staffed weekdays by Family Promise employees, but on weekends it is only open if volunteers are available to staff it. The Day Center operates out of Wesley United Methodist Church. To learn more about available shifts or to sign up to volunteer, please click the link below.



[Family Promise Day Center Sign-Ups](#)

News from the NH UCC



Lay Preaching Class - Rescheduled

Did you miss the lay preaching class at Prepared to Serve? Presenter The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof will give an encore presentation at First Parish in East Derry on Saturday, April 20, from 9 to 12.

All are welcome to join us for this morning of preaching for the

layperson. Please plan to arrive early so that we have a full three hours together. Email pastordeborah@fpc-ucc.org to reserve your spot! We are located at 47 East Derry Road, East Derry.

Calling All Clergy!



All clergy of the New Hampshire Conference are invited to “Come to the River” for a day away from work to restore, connect, and explore. Many clergy are experiencing tremendous depletion, fatigue, and weariness these days. The Clergy Support Ministry recognizes this weariness and offers this respite day.

We invite you to join us on **Tuesday, April 30**, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Congregational Church of Hooksett. The day begins at 8:30 a.m. with a light breakfast and will end with lunch. If you cannot attend in person, we are offering a Zoom Retreat option on Wednesday, May 1st, from 12:30 to 2 p.m.

The Rev. Steve Miller will lead the retreats and offer an enriching time of spiritual exploration involving voice and movement, silence and rest, and community connection.

The cost for the retreat (whether in person or on Zoom) is \$20. You can register and learn more about the day and schedule here: <https://nhcucc.regfox.com/clergy-day-2024>

The registration deadline is Thursday, April 25th. Come away and rest for a while!



Guns to Gardens

Join Guns to Gardens for a day of reflection and inspiration on **Saturday, May 4** at Wesley United Methodist Church in Concord, as they transform unwanted firearms collected at Guns to Gardens events into garden tools. Their live hands-on forging demonstration event includes a celebration; silent auction and raffle of Guns to Gardens tools, wooden bowls, and jewelry; creative community art collage with dismantled gun bits; and fellowship with fellow gun violence prevention advocates and supporters as they raise awareness and funds for their Guns to Gardens program.

[RSVP for tickets here.](#) Free event, RSVP required.

UCC Earth Summit

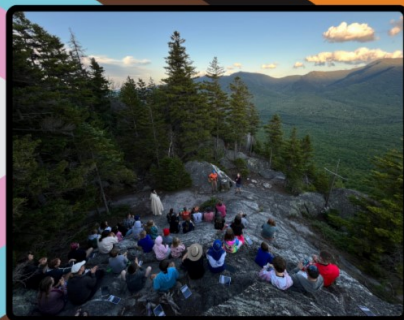
The UCC's second annual Earth Summit will feature celebrated author and activist Bill McKibben delivering the Jim Antal Keynote Lecture with the title, "Energy from Heaven or Energy from Hell?" Additionally, the following panel of award-winning activists will speak about the multi-national struggle against the pollution of Formosa Plastics, one of the world's largest plastics producers. Both Sharon Lavigne and Diane Wilson have won the Goldman Prize which is often referred to as the "green" Nobel Prize. They will be joined on the panel by Nancy Bui from the International Monitor Formosa Alliance and Justice for Formosa Victims. The two-and-a-half-hour summit will also feature the announcement of the Dollie Burwell Prophetic Action Award winner, a celebration of the UCC's newest Creation Justice Churches, and a video showcasing the environmental ministries of our host congregation, The Church of Christ at Dartmouth College. Even if you cannot make the event on April 20 at 1 pm ET, still sign-up, and a recording will be sent to you. [Register now!](#)



Please feel welcome to join us in-person at the Church of Christ at Dartmouth College. No registration is required for in-person attendance.

"PRIDE ON THE MOUNTAIN"

NEW 2024 CAMP SESSION!



This summer we are thrilled to be offering Horton Center's first Pride camp for LGBTQIA+ youth and allies!

Learn more about this amazing new camp by reading the Deans' Letter and FAQ page on the Horton Center website.



August 4-7, Grades 7-'24 grads

Pride on the Mountain!

This summer Horton Center will be introducing Pride on the Mountain, HC's first camp for LGBTQ+ youth and allies! It is a half-week camp from Sunday August 4th through Wednesday August 7th. This camp is being developed with help from our sibling camp in Maine (Pilgrim Lodge), who have successfully run a Pride week since 2017.

The goal of this half week is to create a safe, loving, and open community where everyone has the space to discover and be their

authentic selves. At Pride on the Mountain, pronouns are honored, names respected, exploration welcome, and identity celebrated! Our counselors are from a range of backgrounds and are prepared to share their experiences and facilitate age-appropriate dialogue around gender, sexuality, spirituality and how those all intertwine. [Read the rest of the deans' letter and the FAQ page here!](#)

Check out the Horton Center summer camp schedule here:

www.hortoncenter.org/summer-sessions

Thinking about taking your church up for a retreat at Horton Center?

Email Tivvi for more information!

Wilderness First Aid Certification course at Horton Center:

www.hortoncenter.org/wfa

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

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