



# e-lation!

## **SOUTH CHURCH**

United Church of Christ

---

### **Looking Ahead**

---

During the short two years that he was with us, Sean was a perfect complement to our congregation. His positivity, his humor, his preaching, and his technological knowledge fit us like a glove. To have him gone is both expected and difficult. But his presence and his words will continue to nudge us forward.

Now that Sean has gone, we are moving toward the goal of reducing the percentage of our operating funds spent on people to 50% over the next three years. Depending on how strong our stewardship is, there may or may not be funds for an acting part-time associate. For the time being, South Church will likely move into being a one-pastor church, and we need to start thinking that way.

At times like this there is often a congregational instinct to batten down the hatches, turn inward and wait for the new Pastor to arrive to determine the next steps. I urge South Church to resist this instinct. Our vision statement declares that we *already* are a “Christian community seeking to be living examples of radical hope and extravagant love,” and that we are committed in our desire to “serve our neighbors and work for a just world.” That has happened in the past with and without pastoral leadership and will continue to do so if we choose.

Since I will be focusing much of my time on making personal, pastoral visits in the year and a half remaining before I retire, now is the time for some of that visioning work to take root in you. Use these upcoming months to make a new personal connection. Get

involved with Families in Transition or the Concord Coalition to End Homelessness. Start volunteering at the Friendly Kitchen or the Crisis Center or one of our Food Pantries. Read a book or watch a video being offered every month as we move toward our vote on becoming a Racial Justice Church this May.

One more thing. For those of you who have not yet come back to church: come back. Zoom was our saving grace during the pandemic and Zoom continues to be an "every now and then" blessing when driving to church would be too much. But Zoom also inhibits our ability to literally come together as a thriving community of faith. This is part of my vision, and this is the perfect time to get reacquainted and reconnected. Make a point of coming to one of our three upcoming Breaking Bread events on Saturday, January 29 at 5:30 p.m. (also on February 28 and March 25). Come for a light meal and experience again the simple joys of being together in the same place at the same time.

As Sean said in his parting words: *“Change is constant, and more changes are in store for South Church. It is a time of liminal space and transformation. During unsettled times in a congregation, there can be a tendency for fear to creep in, scarcity and siloed thinking to take over, and blame and anger to replace open conversations about shared values, goals, and passions. It is imperative to be on guard for these tendencies and meet them with grace, generosity, forgiveness, and love. South Church has so much to offer that the world needs now. Cultivating these attitudes during transition time will bring you closer together. As you move into the next phase of your collective becoming, remember that your opinions matter, so voice them. Remember, everyone needs kindness, so give it and remember that through it all, God is with you.”*

Blessings, Jed

---

## Faithful Stewards

---



### *CCHE Collection Box*

This month the Faith in Action Ministry will be sponsoring a drive for supplies the Concord Coalition to End Homelessness for its Resource Center and overnight Winter Shelter.

Items Most Needed:

- Sweatpants or Scrubs (all sizes)
- Shampoo/Conditioner/Body Wash (Large)
- Hand- and Feet- warmers
- Coffee Cups (disposable)
- Boots
- New Warm Socks
- New Underwear (all sizes)
- Gloves/Mittens
- Coffee
- Creamers
- Sugar
- Gas Cards

Please drop items off at the church in January where there will be a marked collection bin in the South Church side entrance. See the [CCEH website](#), for other needs and ways to get involved.



## *A Joyful Challenge*

A generous couple issued a challenge to our congregation. They have pledged up to \$4,000 to match any gifts that are made through January toward the purchase of assistive hearing units to complete our new sound system. They desire to use

their funds as a means of encouraging the rest of us to join them in celebrating and empowering those among us whose hearing is not what it used to be. If you make a gift of any size, they will match your gift 1:1 up to \$4,000. So far, the congregation has donated \$3,168, which brings us to a total of \$6,336 with our matching gift! We are so close to our total goal of \$8,000! Please send a check to the office with "Hearing Assistive Units" in the memo line or stop by or call the office with a credit card to show your support of those who would love to hear our worship as clearly as we do. Your gift will be doubled! We thank you.



## *Childcare*

After a three-year hiatus the Faith Formation Ministry would like to offer childcare during the 10 a.m. worship service for our young families and their children from infants to three years old. And we need your help. We are looking for volunteers to help supervise the

children on Sunday mornings. We believe it is the church's responsibility to work with families to provide an inviting and safe atmosphere that encourages their spiritual needs. While we love youth interacting with the younger children, our safe church policy requires that at least one person in the room needs to be 18 years or older. If you are interested in volunteering one or two Sundays, please do so. Here is the link to the [on-line signup sheet](#).



## *Acting Associate Position*

Members of the congregation are invited to apply for the part-time Acting Associate position. This is a six-month assignment designed to help in critical areas during our time of transition. Candidates must be good communicators who are enthusiastic

about youth programs and available for Sunday morning worship and weekly evening get-togethers with the Senior High Youth Group. They must also be available for the April trip to New Orleans (April 22-29). The position will pay up to \$15,000 through June at 20 hours per week. Interested? Contact [Kayla](#).



## *Family Promise*

We will be hosting families the week of **February 19 to February 26** here at South Church. We will need assistance from you to make this happen and be a meaningful experience for the families in our care. Opportunities include preparing dinner, serving dinner or breakfast, and visiting with the families, as well as staying overnight. For more information e-mail our [coordinators](#). To sign-up to volunteer [click here](#).

## **Spiritual Growth**



## *Outdoor Adventure*

Join other South Church members on **Sunday, January 22** at 1 p.m. for a local hike at Beaver Meadow Golf Course. If there is no snow, the plan is to hike Marjorie Swoope. For more information, contact [Lorens Jorgensen](#).



## *Breaking Bread*

Let's Break Bread with our South Church friends to renew connections, meet new people and build relationships. Join us on **Saturday, January 28** at 5:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall for a light meal and rich

conversation. The soup will be hot! Beverages will be cold! While the soup and beverages will be provided, we ask everyone to bring bread or salad to share. Interested in participating in this event, [sign-up online](#) or in Fellowship Hall. This will allow us to prepare accordingly. If you have any questions, contact [Bruce Bairstow](#) or [Zib Corell](#). Also tentatively mark your calendar for Saturday, February 25 and Saturday, March 25 for our future Breaking Bread with Friends event.



## Round Table Discussion

The Faith in Action Ministry is seeking our help! They are looking for more places to help with our donations. Many of us are involved in and passionate about local causes, and they would like to know what they are. Join them at round table

discussion during coffee hour after the 10 a.m. worship service on **Sunday, January 29**. Please share what local causes you support and bring something that represents your cause or group. This will give everyone a visual representation of a variety of groups! If you have suggestions, but you cannot be there in-person, please contact [Pegi Frosthalm](#). We look forward to seeing you!

## UCC Community



Prepared to Serve  
2023

Connecting & Reconnecting

*I want to see you and share with you the same blessings that God's Spirit has given me. Then you will grow stronger in your faith. What I am saying is that we can encourage each other by the faith that is ours. Romans 1:11-12 (CEV)*

## Prepare to Serve

Prepared to Serve 2023 will return to an in-person gathering at Pembroke Academy on **Saturday, February 25** from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. This year's theme is *Connecting & Reconnecting* from the scripture passage

in Romans 1:11-12 (CEV): *"I want to see you and share with you the same blessings that God's Spirit has given me. Then you will grow stronger in your faith. What I am saying is that we can encourage each other by the faith that is ours."* The workshops offered will provide training and sharing on the topics most asked about in this time of emergence. To see detailed information on the individual workshops, check out this website. Registration is open for this event. [Sign-up today](#).

## Sacred Ally Quilt Display and Documentary

The Stratham Community Church invites you to view the Sacred Ally Quilts on display **Saturday, January 21** from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and a screening of "Stitch



*Breathe Speak,*” the documentary detailing the creation of the quilts at 1 p.m. Following the documentary there will be a community conversation on race offered by the Rev. Mark Koyama and Dr. Harriet Ward. The events of this day are free and open to the public. Stratham Community Church is located at 6 Emery Lane in Stratham.

---

## Local Community

---



### Chorale Concert

Join Concord Chorale for their winter concert “The Sky Within.” This eclectic program of music for chorus and piano inspired by the sky, flight, and letting go will include *Opus 112* by Johannes

Brahms, *Madrigals* by Maddelena Casulana, *A Song of Blue* by Bob Chilcott, *Little Birds* by Eric Whitacre, *Fly* by Susan LaBarr, and *Heavenly Home* by Shawn Kirchner. This concert will be in-person on **Friday, January 21** at 7 p.m. and in-person and live streamed on **Sunday, January 22** at 3 p.m. Please visit their [website](#) for tickets and more information.

---

**The next e-Lation! will arrive on Thursday, February 2.**

If you wish to add something to our newsletter, please submit your article by Friday, January 27 to [Alison](#).

---

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

[Unsubscribe office@southchurchconcord.org](mailto:office@southchurchconcord.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by anyhan@southchurchconcord.org in collaboration with



Try email marketing for free today!