

e-Lation!

South Congregational Church, UCC

*Jesus, aware of their inner thoughts, took a little child and put it by his side and said to them,
"Whoever welcomes this child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one
who sent me, for the least among all of you is the greatest."*

Luke 9:47-48

Dear Members and Friends of South Church!

It is with great joy that I thank you for the many ways you have welcomed me to New Hampshire. This is an entirely new adventure for me and my family. The New England area is a delightful place and its beauty is compelling. My family will spend this holiday weekend hiking some of New Hampshire's trails with a view!

Many of you have asked me, "Are you settled in yet?" The answer will be, "Not yet," for a while. There are many new things to navigate, including our new ministry life together. This past month (I have been your minister for just a month.) has been quite busy. Sometimes I meet myself coming when I am walking out the door (you should laugh here). Your staff, your leadership, and your congregation has been ever so gracious as we begin to explore what a mutual ministry looks like together.

I am aware these are tenuous times especially as the election cycle begins in earnest. Anxiety seems to greet us with the news even as the warmer days beckon us to play. I take comfort in the knowledge that within the congregational tradition we believe that God rules the conscience. Within each of us is the Spirit of the Holy One guiding us toward seeking love and justice in the world. As Christians we strive to live into the calling to be disciples of Jesus, which is not easy. It is a worthy pursuit.

This month we continue with our Black Poets, Poetry, and Psalms for Summer which ends on Sunday July 21st. On July 28th we will celebrate a PRIDE Worship Service together. Invite those who are special to you to come worship with us. One of the reasons I accepted your call to ministry was because of your courage to be an Open and Affirming and Racial Justice seeking congregation. My prayer is that you and I will continue to grow in our relationships and find joy along the way as we love God with all we got and serve Christ in this sacred place.

Included later in this Elation! is a poem I wrote for our first sermon in the Black Poets series entitled “Come to the Edge.” It speaks to how I believe that when we engage in meaningful ministries that lift up the values of being a #LoveAndJusticeChurch we will undoubtedly meet Christ and prophets in our midst.

With joy and thanksgiving,

Pastor Tanya

Pastor Tanya

*“When you ask me if I am settled
in, you are also asking me,
‘who are you’?
‘Whose am I’ is a better question.
I belong to God, of course.
I belong to my ancestors, to my
family, and to my biblical mentors
who call me to ministry.
So, in some way, whose am I
includes you now.
I am your minister.”*

June 30, 2024 Sermon



Neighbors in Need

July and August Moment for Mission

For the months of **July and August**, the Faith in Action Committee has chosen the UCC Neighbors in Need (NIN) fund as our Moment for Mission. NIN is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. NIN makes available annual grants to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. The funds collected for this mission will be utilized by staff to develop curated social justice resources such as webinars, bible studies, curriculums, advocacy tools, etc. within the program areas of environmental justice, racial justice, LGBTQ justice, economic justice, women’s justice, immigration justice, and more. Thank you for your continued support of the Faith in Action committee!

Stock Donations

If South Church hasn’t acknowledged a donation of stock by you, please call Kayla in the Church office. It’s likely we don’t know who you are! When a financial institution transfers a stock on your behalf, please instruct them to identify you. Otherwise, they’re not allowed to share that information. A call to Kayla in advance of making a stock transfer is especially helpful in expediting these win-win donations to South Church. Thank you!!





Listen **EVERYWHERE**
FROM LISTEN TECHNOLOGIES

Assistive Listening

Having difficulty hearing in the sanctuary? Assistive listening options are here to help. There are 2 options for connecting to our Assistive Listening System! Option 1: using your own smartphone. Option 2: using a South Church device to connect. Your first connection setup will take about 10 minutes. An Assistive Listening Assistant is in the back of the sanctuary on **Sundays** at 8:30. Want to connect or have questions? The Assistive Listening Assistant is there to help.

Garden Volunteers

“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: ...a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted.”

Gardens are a joy to behold, and a labor of love to maintain. The key word here is labor! Shrubs and perennials grow, and so do weeds. Buds bloom, and flowers die. Volunteers are needed to deadhead, prune, water, and weed on a weekly basis. For camaraderie and guidance, it is relaxing to work with others, which also makes the time pass quickly.



Please contact Debbie Carley (603-724-8147) if you are interested in joining others on Tuesday mornings from 9-10 am. If you need gardening gloves or hand tools such as clippers or a trowel, let me know.

Come to the Edge

June 15, 2024

Tanya Sadagopan

*Deep wisdom comes from the prophets of old, of our time
Of this moment too.
They dwell at the edges of life
where the boundaries are rough and disputes break out.
They live at the border and pitch their tents and live off the grid
and thank God they are not like you.*

If you are too white, too rich, too comfortable then it is hard for the prophet to reach you.

*Come to the border with me
Come to the water's edge
Come to the edge of town
Come to the edge of the big sky and the dark night
Where loneliness hears the echoes of the school yard.
Come to the boundary between north and south
Come to where some bodies are not welcome here
Come to the edge of sorrow and shame
Come and sit on the bed of the granite floor where dreams struggle to be born
And hopes die and futures are lost.*

*And when they try to bum a cigarette off of you,
give it to them even though you quit so long ago.
There used to be something magical in the sharing of cigarettes,
a communal sigh,*

*A shared breath out
(as if to let go of the anguish of this day,
this circumstance, this life on the boundary).*

*Tension lives at the edges
Where the lava meets the rock.
Creation begins to renew and make new
and remake what wasn't good in the first place.
It is raw and hot and frightening, and life begins there.
Meet the people and sit with them
there and you will find the prophet.
Join them in their holy circles,
listen deeply to their stories,
do not interrupt like a white person who thinks they own the world,
they do not own the edges.
They belong to the center where life is easy and comfortable
and where Christ forgets to walk among them.*

This is not your space, it is theirs.

News From Around the NHCUCC

From the Board of Directors

Hello NH Conference! Your Board of Directors met on June 8, 2024. We were glad that most of us could attend in person at the Conference Office in Pembroke. It was a very full agenda, and here are some highlights of that meeting:

- We celebrated increased registrations for camping at Horton Center this summer! The Board also authorized funding to replace the well head at camp, which is very near the end of its life expectancy.
- We reviewed updates to the Ukama Covenant and adopted them. They will be brought to Zimbabwe to be signed in partnership. Our delegation travels to Zimbabwe this month.
- Our new website is live! Please check it out if you haven't already. Pages are still being populated, but it mostly complete.
- There was celebration for new staff members Sam Juliano and Cameron Keller, and deep appreciation for the work of Susanne Royer-McCarron as our Search and Call Administrator as she departs.
- Planning is underway for our Conference Minister's sabbatical time, the first part of which will be taken toward the end of this year. We have identified a potential Sabbatical Conference Minister, and are working at delineating the duties between that person and our Associate Conference minister in Gordon's absence.
- After a significant effort, the Conference has a new Record Retention Policy. We are thankful for the Working Group that shepherded the process. As one Board member said, "It ain't sexy, but it's important!"



· The Work of the Association Task Force is ongoing and progressing. We remain engaged in the process and are excited and hopeful about future outcomes.

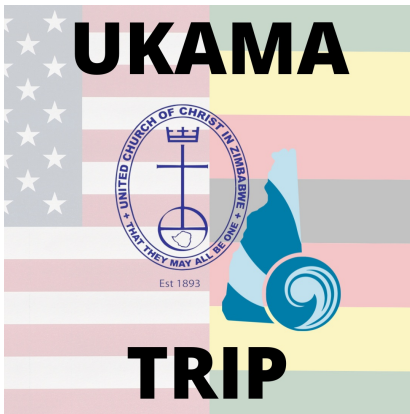
· The Board approved, with some edits, a resolution to come before the Annual Meeting Titled: “A Lamentation and Call to Congregations for Discussion and Action about Gun Violence Prevention.”

There is lots of great stuff happening in our Conference! Where is the place that your time and talents can help?

Peace,

Jim

Rev. Jim Thomas
Conference President



Ukama Delegation

A group of eight people will be representing the New Hampshire Conference on our first Ukama visit to our partners in the United Church of Christ in Zimbabwe since 2017. Their trip will begin July 22. They will return home August 7. During their time in Zimbabwe they will visit and worship with many partnered churches. They also will visit the mission stations at Mt. Selinda and Chikore, tour Great Zimbabwe, a UNESCO World heritage site, as well as a game preserve.

Rev. Sara Marean and Rev. David Keller are the delegation co-leaders. Other members of the delegation are: Rev. Mandy Lape, Stephanie Westergren, Sarah MacKenzie, Lindy Keller, Shaun Hathaway, and Wren Marean. Put faces to names and read about our delegation on the [UKAMA Delegation page Here!](#)

The delegation may carry packets of information about partnered churches here to their partner congregations there. Please let [David Keller](#) know if you intend to provide a packet July 8. In addition, there will be a link on our website to follow the journey, this feature is currently under construction. Watch The Weekly News and our Facebook for information as that resource comes online.

UCC Disabilities Ministries Seeks Applicants for Board

The [United Church of Christ Disabilities Ministries](#) requests applications for open positions on it's board of directors. Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at 6:30 PM. Find out more about the UCCDM board member requirements, the mission statement and more by viewing their [Call for Nominations](#) and if you think you would be a good fit, find the [application form here](#).



Seeking Volunteers: Prepared to Serve Planning Team

The Prepared to Serve Planning Team needs your help! We are seeking an organized person that could serve on a team to plan this annual event. The group meets once monthly on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 10:00 AM. Most times meetings are held in a hybrid format

allowing you to participate in-person at the Conference Office in Pembroke or over Zoom. If Interested or to further inquire, please email events@nhcucc.org.

Counselors Needed at Horton Center

Week 1 up at Horton Center has been a busy one! We had our youngest "Getting Started" campers with us for half the week to give camping a try (spoiler alert, they loved it and will definitely be back!), we were joined by a mission group from Mystic, CT who helped us with some projects around the site including the construction of private changing areas in our cabins, we had our middle school Climate Superheroes on site, as well as our Leaders in Training camp. Together we hiked, caved, worshipped outside at our beautiful ledges, and of course had the first s'mores of the season. The magic of Outdoor Ministries is happening at your camp!

Registration is still open. Don't wait, sign up today for a week of camp! Don't have a whole week to spare this summer? Check out our half-week and weekend opportunities as well at www.HortonCenter.org

See you on the mountain!

Resource Spotlight: Online Safety Training

Technology Education and More- At No Cost!

If your congregation is like many, introducing technology - even out of worship - can be scary and tumultuous. With grandparent scams surging, ransomware attacks on large companies in the news, and a general unfamiliarity with tech, it makes sense that folks would be weary. Online life is next to unavoidable to a degree- and no matter who you are, or where you fall on life's journey, it is critical to stay safe online. GCF Global has tons of free training for every level of computer-user. Some, like [this Avoiding spam and Phishing course](#), is designed to require very little computer knowledge beforehand. Also, it's all free and vetted for legitimacy by your Communications and Programs Coordinator. See [All Training Topics Here](#) and if this is helpful to you, share with a friend!

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