

e-Lation!

South Congregational Church, UCC

*"Wherever two or three gather in my name,
there I am in the midst of them"*
-Matthew 18:20

As with the cycles of all nature, we at South Church continue to grow and change, even in this in-between time. I am privileged to witness the Loving Christ in our midst on a daily basis- folks coming together to provide a loving presence to those who might be lonely or hurting, people working hard to get the budget and by-laws ready for annual meeting, tending the grounds, cleaning the building, teaching Sunday school, singing and bell ringing in worship, attending committee meetings, traveling in mission with youth and adults— the list can go on and on. Indeed, community is a gift that needs care-full, nurturing care. We at South Church are fortunate to have many dedicated and skilled members and friends willing to step up for and with one another. It is an important time in our life together. Let us celebrate the presence of Christ in the midst of us all!

(And maybe say a thank you to each other!)

-Leanne

May Moment for Mission

For the month of May, the Faith in Action Ministry has chosen the Concord Coalition to End Homelessness (CCEH) for our Moment for Mission. CCEH helps clients who are homeless, or at imminent risk of becoming homeless connect with resources that are available to them while meeting their needs for immediate housing and food. The center provides access to showers, laundry, coffee and light refreshments, general help, resources, and case management. With the



assistance of volunteers, case managers help connect clients to housing and shelter programs, Medicaid, SNAP, Disability, and other benefits, and to obtain state ID cards, birth certificates, and other vital information. In addition, the Resource Center hosts a variety of community providers on a weekly basis ranging from Archways Recovery Coalition of NH (which focuses on recovery from substance use disorders), to Easter Seals and Harbor Care for Veteran services, Riverbend Community Mental Health, AmeriHealth Caritas, physicians from Concord Hospital, and Empire Beauty School (for haircuts). Please consider making a donation to this worthwhile cause. To donate to this mission, please [click here](#).

CALL TO THE ANNUAL MEETING

The South Church Annual Meeting will be held on
Sunday, May 19
following the 9am Worship Service.

The meeting will be both in person and via Zoom.
We will be voting on next year's budget and updated
Church Bylaws.
PLEASE plan to attend!



Contact Info: Rev. Dr. Leanne Tigert

Rev. Leanne Tigert is our Bridge Minister during this time of transition. Many of you already know Leanne and may have her contact info saved. Please note that if you need to get a hold of Rev. Leanne for any pastoral concerns or business, she has a new phone number: **603-496-7184**.

Please use this number for any South Church or pastor related communications. If you have any other questions, please feel free to contact the office at 603-224-2521. Thank you!

Special Olympics NH: Summer Games Volunteers Needed!

The Central Area summer games will be hosted on
May 5, at the Memorial Field in Concord, NH.

Volunteers are needed! Opportunities include:

- Competitions Support (Track & Field-Bocce)
- Awards
- Food
- Set Up and Breakdown
- Photographer and Videographer



[Sign up here.](#) Please contact [Shelby Cote](#) (or 603-933-1093) with questions.



Kayla Will Be Out of Office!

Our administrator, Kayla, will be out of office **May 6 through May 15!** She will return to the office on May 16. Kind volunteers have offered to staff the office for a few hours each day, but please make sure to call the office (603-224-2521) before stopping by to ensure someone will be there to greet you!

Youth Sunday

Join us on Sunday, May 19 for Youth Sunday! The youth of South Church will be helping lead worship at 9am. Join us!



Red River Movie Event

Red River Theater will be presenting Late Life Depression, a movie and panel on Mental Health and Aging. The film will be presented by Fellowship Housing Opportunities on Thursday, May 30 at 5:30pm. [Please click here to purchase tickets.](#) If you have any questions, please contact Herb Carpenter.

The Merrimack Valley Ringers Presents *Journeys*

7pm on Saturday, June 8 here at South Church! Hear the Merrimack Valley Ringers as they embark on a musical journey to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Handbell Musicians of America! We are thrilled to have been invited to perform the Opening concert at HMA's National Seminar in Hartford, CT in July.



Spring 2024 South Church Delegates Report

The spring 2024 Merrimack Association Meeting was held on **April 14** from 2-3:07 pm, both in



person at the North Barnstead Congregational Church and on Zoom. South Congregational Church was represented by Kit DeVries (in person), Cherie Shaw and Gyne Hardy (via Zoom). The meeting was followed at 3:30 with the installation of Rev. Kate Kennedy.

[Read the full report...](#)

Parking Spaces For Rent!

South Church has four available parking spots for rent! Do you, or someone you know, work downtown and have trouble finding parking? Or do you find yourself parking blocks away from your office? Our spots are available for just \$100 per month and are conveniently located a block up from North Main Street! Please contact the office if you have questions or for an application.



UCC Conference News

Introducing *Ministry 21*

If you've attended Conference events lately, you'll have noticed that many of our churches are lively and joyful regardless of the size of the congregation. We have so much spirit, joy, and courage to offer the communities in which we serve! We are actively engaged in the ministry Jesus did, feeding bodies and souls, working for justice and safety for marginalized peoples, resisting the powers of war and divisive hatred, and worshiping faithfully. To support the needs of these amazing churches for skilled leadership, our Conference is joining with our UCC neighbors in Vermont to develop Ministry21...

The Vision:

Ministry21 aims to break down barriers and expand opportunities for discernment and learning for ministry across our two Conferences. Our collaborative effort seeks to:

- develop a holistic program of discernment and learning for the whole church.
- address the social and cultural realities of being faith-filled people in communities that are increasingly secular.
- foster a community of learning and collegial connections beyond "classroom and coursework" engagement.

Courses will be offered with a combination of in-person and online, asynchronous engagement, designed to meet diverse learning styles and entry points.

[Learn More About Ministry 21...](#)

Small Acts of Caring Mean a Lot to Our Immigrant Neighbors

In 1954, big band-era singer Kitty Kallen first made famous the song "Little Things Mean a Lot." Our NHCUCC Immigrant & Refugee Support Group (IRSG) is well aware that "little things" – small acts of kindness and generosity – can make all the difference in the life of an asylum-seeker or other immigrant in our midst who is struggling to survive and thrive. Currently, in partnership with our American Friends Service Committee-NH partner, our trained volunteers are visiting the 80+ immigrants/asylum-seekers who, quite unfortunately, are detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) at the county jail in Dover. YOUR contribution of just \$27 will allow us to provide one of these individuals with access to the jail commissary to buy some food or personal care items or make a phone call – i.e. the very basics for one detained in a jail environment. Individuals detained by ICE tell us that these donations truly mean a lot to them and lift their spirits immensely. [Please donate here.](#)

IRSG Member and Jail Visitation Volunteer Ron Schneider of the First Congregational Church of Pelham [shares a wonderful story](#) of how other little things – a new package of underwear or a repaired sewing machine or the act of teaching a skill – also can mean a lot. What kinds of small acts of generosity and kindness toward our immigrant neighbors and others can YOUR congregation provide? Let creativity be your guide! For more information about the IRSG, email irsg.nhcucc@gmail.com.



Second Annual Anti-Racism Speaker Series

The Anti-Racism Ministry Group of the NHCUCC was delighted to host the General Minister and President of the UCC on Sunday, April 7. Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson shared her personal experience of race in

poetry and storytelling and responded to questions concerning the work of antiracism. Those who were unable to attend the event in person can view the recording on the NH Conference YouTube page [here](#).

2024 Combatants for Peace and the Parents Circle- Family Forum

On May 12, Combatants for Peace and The Parents Circle-Families Forum host the 19th Israeli-Palestinian Joint Memorial Day Ceremony. The theme this year is the stories of children whose lives are being upended and their future hopes uncertain. Just three days later, on May 15th, Combatants for Peace will host the 2024 Joint Nakba Remembrance Ceremony. The theme is "liberation." How do we collectively liberate ourselves from occupation, oppression and violence? The NH Conference Peace with Justice Advocates Mission Group is a sponsor again this year and encourages joining both ceremonies.

[Learn more about the Joint Memorial Day Ceremony](#)

[Learn More about the Joint Nakba Remembrance Ceremony](#)

Senior High Youth Canoe Trip

Youth ages 14 and older are welcome to join South Congregational Church of Newport's annual Voyageurs Canoe Trip to LaVerendrye, Quebec Canada.



Spend a week paddling with adult leaders and other teenagers, learning how to work as a team and be self-sufficient, all while having fun! The trip cost is \$500.00 per camper which includes all of the equipment, food, and transportation. Financial aid is available through Rekindling Curiosity. [Learn more about the trip here.](#)

Contact Kevin Corliss (603-863-1425, kevincorliss@comcast.net) if you want to learn more and register!



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.](#)

Horton Center

Camps for Elementary Campers

for those entering grades 3-5 in the fall

Week 1 (June 23-26) "Getting Started"



Week 2 (June 30-July 6) "Camp M.O.R.E."



Week 3 (July 7-13) "New Things"

Week 4 (July 14-20) "Wacky Water World"



Week 5 (July 14-20) "Hogwarts on the Mt."



End of Summer Half-Week Sessions

July 28-30 "Grandparents & Grandchildren"

August 7-10 "HC Remix"



REMINDERS

Pieceful Quilting Retreat

September 6-8

Email Tivvi if you're interested in joining us for a weekend of crafting on the mountain!

Wilderness First Aid at HC

June 8-9

www.hortoncenter.org/wfa

Sticker Design Contest

Submit your "On the Loose" themed sticker designs to

TPare@nhcucc.org by 5/24

Horton Center: Camps for Elementary Campers

Do you know a camper who is entering 3rd, 4th, or 5th grade in the fall? Do they love spending time outside, meeting new friends, and trying new fun things? Give them the incredible gift of a week at Horton Center! All summer long we have awesome camps for our elementary-aged campers. [Check out the whole camp schedule here.](#)

Don't forget! We have lots of scholarship support we are excited to share. Reach out to Tivvi (TPare@nhcucc.org) for more information.

We will see you on the mountain soon!

Shalom,

Tivvi Pare (she/her)

Executive Director of Horton Center

www.HortonCenter.org

603-545-9660

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