



South Church
United Church of Christ

e-Lation!

Words of Encouragement in Turbulent Times
from Rev. Jed

Dear Friends: Thank goodness for summer, and things like walks on the beach, mini-golf, a week at the camp, ice cream cones or a favorite read to help blunt the recent onslaught of bad news and tragedy that just keeps on coming. We desperately need God's summer's graces to keep from despairing. So, in the spirit of encouragement, the next time you're taking a lazy moment to feed your soul, here are a few short quotations I and others have found encouraging.

2 Corinthians 4:7-18

But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may also be revealed in our mortal body. Therefore, we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

"The Serenity Prayer"

by Reinhold Niebuhr

God, give me grace to accept with serenity the things that cannot

be changed, Courage to change the things which should be changed, and the Wisdom to distinguish the one from the other. Living one day at a time, Enjoying one moment at a time, Accepting hardship as a pathway to peace, Taking, as Jesus did, This sinful world as it is, Not as I would have it, Trusting that You will make all things right, If I surrender to Your will, So that I may be reasonably happy in this life, And supremely happy with You forever in the next.

"The Way It Is"

by Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer

*Over and over we break
open, we break and
we break and we open.
For a while, we try to fix
the vessel—as if
to be broken is bad.
As if with glue and tape
and a steady hand we
might bring things to perfect
again. As if they were ever
perfect. As if to be broken is not
also perfect. As if to be open
is not the path toward joy.*

*The vase that's been shattered
and cracked will never
hold water. Eventually
it will leak. And at some
point, perhaps, we decide
that we're done with picking
our flowers anyway, and no
longer need a place to contain them
We watch them grow just
as wildflowers do—unfenced,
unmanaged, blossoming only
when they're ready—and my god,
how beautiful they are amidst
the mounting pile of shards.*

Life is not about "or," it is about "and."

by Kristi Nelson

*Life is not about "or," it is about "and."
it is magical and messy.
It is heartwarming and heartbreaking.
It is delight and disappointment.
Grace and grief.
Exquisite and excruciating,
often at the exact same time.*

**"How I Build a Good Day
When I'm Full of Despair for the World"**

by Mary Pipher

Most of us cannot be great heroes. However, we all have the capacity to be ordinary heroes. We may not be able to stop the global use of plastics, but we can work with local environmental groups. We cannot eliminate prejudice or nuclear weapons.

However, we can deliver Meals on Wheels or repair bikes for giveaway programs. Only with heightened coping skills will we be able to rise above our shell shock and be who we want to be.

All of us have the capacity to do this, and when we do, we will increase our own happiness and be of greater service to those around us. Lao-Tse expresses this point in his poem that begins, "If there is to be peace in the world/There must be peace in the nations," and ends with "If there is to be peace in the home/There must be peace in the heart."

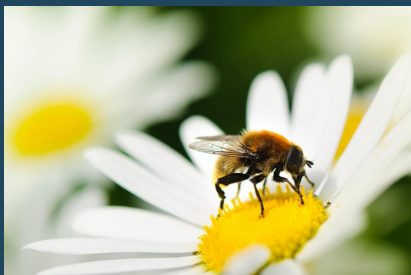
For the full article, click on this [link](#).

Faithful Stewards



Moment for Mission

The Faith in Action Ministry has chosen the UCC Neighbors in Need fund as our Moment for Mission for the months of July and August. Neighbors in Need (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. Please make a **donation** today. Thank you for your continued support of the Faith in Action Ministry.



Environmental Minute

There is no greater need on earth right now than the need to slow the pace of Climate Change, and there is no better time to do our part than right now. Each little thing we do, and do regularly, will have an impact.

What can you do? Buy locally grown food. Compost. Ride your bike or walk more often when you do not absolutely need to drive. Use your air conditioner a little less and your fans a little more. Dry as many of your clothes as possible on the line or laundry rack. And for all of you runners: Do the Dash! Sign up for the **Global Ministries Mission Dash 5K!** Run for fun and support local climate justice around the world! For more information check out this [link](#).

Nurturing



Prayer Vigil

We will be holding a prayer vigil on **Tuesday, July 12** in the Sanctuary from 8 a.m. to 12 noon for Rev. Jed. He will undergo surgery at Lahey Hospital in Burlington, MA to install a Neurostimulator in his brain to reduce tremors. The other end of the lead will then be guided under the skin down to his upper chest area. Additionally, we will have a laying on of hands on **Sunday, July 10** during worship.



Family Promise

We will be assisting Temple Beth Jacob the week of **July 31 to August 7** as they will be hosting families in the program. 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 and dropping it off at the temple, serving dinner or breakfast and visiting with the families, as well as staying overnight. For more information contact our **coordinators**. To sign-up to volunteer click [here](#).

VBS Field Trip

During the week of VBS (August 22 to 26), the children will take a “field trip” to the NH Food Bank on **Thursday, August 25**. We



will tour the facility, learn how it operates, and see the mobile food truck. This will be a great introduction to how hunger is dealt in our state. We would like to present the Food Bank with a trunk full of donations. If you would like to contribute to our collection, please feel free to drop off your donations to the church by **Monday, August 22**. Here is a full list of their **current needs**.

Spiritual Growth

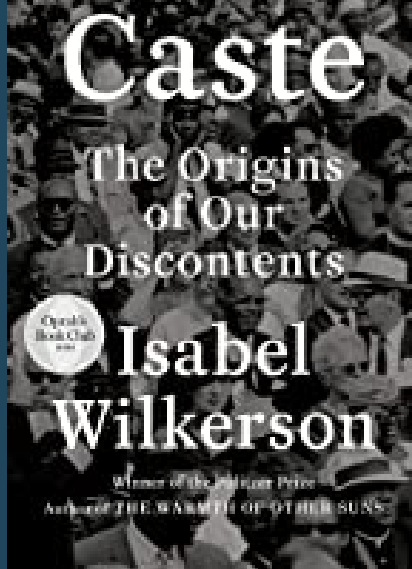


Fourth Grade Bibles

We believe that fourth graders are at a point in their spiritual development where they can understand and truly appreciate the Bible. We give them their own Bible to use during class and to keep for their own. Bibles will be presented on **Sunday, September 25**. If your son/daughter is entering fourth grade this fall and is interested in receiving a Bible, please contact **Alison**.

Summer Reading

Join other South Church members in reading *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents* by Isabel Wilkerson. In this book, she gives us a masterful portrait of an unseen phenomenon in America as she explores, through an immersive, deeply researched narrative and stories about real people; about how America today and throughout its history has been shaped by a hidden caste system, a rigid hierarchy of human ranking. A copy of the book is available online or at the local bookstore (Gibson's is offering a 10% discount, just



mention South Church.) If you are interested in participating in a book discussion on **Sunday, September 16** after worship or have questions, please contact **Kayla**.



Summer Movie

Just Mercy (watch-at-home) is a 2019 American biographical legal drama film starring Michael B. Jordan, Jamie Foxx, Rob Morgan, Tim Blake Nelson, Rafe Spall, and Brie Larson. It follows a young lawyer, Bryan Stevenson and his history-making battle for justice. After graduating from Harvard, Bryan had his pick of lucrative jobs. Instead, he heads to Alabama to defend those wrongly condemned or who were not afforded proper representation, with the support of

local advocate Eva Ansley. A copy of this movie can be borrowed at your local library, at the church, or on-line. <https://www.justmercyfilm.com/> If you are interested in participating in a discussion on **Sunday, September 25** after worship or have questions, please contact **Kayla**.

In the Community



Nevers' Band

Nevers' Second Regiment Band is the Capitol City's professional community band, dedicated to bringing an annual series of summer concerts to the greater Concord area and throughout the state. Its compound name derives from its military affiliation with the Second Regiment of the NH National Guard in the late 1800's and direction for more than half a century by

Claremont cornetist, Arthur Nevers. Throughout its years of service, Nevers' Band has remained a professional civilian community band, but its military origins have always flavored its history and traditions.

Nevers' Band Concerts are an exciting and fun experience for the whole family! Our diverse repertoire includes popular numbers, patriotic music, classic orchestral transcriptions, music from motion pictures and more! To check out their summer schedule, click [here](#).



Historical Society

A documentary presentation titled "A History of Page Belting Company," followed by a discussion led by President

Mark Coen will be held on **Thursday, July 14** at 7 p.m. at the Kimball Jenkins Carriage House. All are welcome.



Concord Public Library

Outdoor Preschool Storytime is on Wednesdays from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. This time includes stories, finger plays, and songs. All designed to strengthen children's reading a prereading

skills. Be sure to check out this [link](#) for details on location and other programs offered for children.

The next e-Lation will arrive on **Thursday, August 4.**

If you wish to add something to our newsletter, please submit your article by **Monday, August 1** to **Alison.**

This summer the office will be open Monday through Friday from 8a.m. to 12noon starting on Tuesday, July 5 through Tuesday, September 6.

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

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