



e-Lation!
April 8, 2021



Devotional from Sean

"Curiosity"

Exodus 3 Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. 2 There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. 3 So Moses thought, "I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up."

Curiosity killed the cat. It motivated Pandora to open the box despite being warned of its destructive contents and was the impetus behind Adam and Eve eating from the Tree of Knowledge bringing sin into the world. Some Christian moralists suggest it is a sin itself, or at the very least, it entices us into all sorts of spiritually dangerous situations. These myths don't take into account the same power that curiosity has to lure us into eating the forbidden fruit also beckons us to eat broccoli and try Salsa dancing. What can get humanity kicked out of the garden can lead Moses to an encounter with the I AM?

To be curious is to be aware of the discrepancies between what is known and what is unknown and desire to make the unknown known. It leads us to see the complexity of life and want to know more about it. Curiosity motivates us to inquire about our world, our relationships, and ourselves. It facilitates growth, novelty, learning, discovery, and spiritual development while being an antidote to judgments, assumptions, and shallow, two-dimensional relationships. In a community, curiosity promotes stronger relationships, engagement, responsiveness, and appreciation of varied experiences and perspectives.

During this time of discernment, discovery, and the beginning of post-pandemic reintegration, I call upon us to activate our curiosity and inquiry so that we can get past old assumptions and rut-worn paths that may no longer serve us. We can know each other with greater intimacy, and we can discover a new vision and ministry. So let's be curious about one another and what God is doing in our midst.

Below you will find a favorite Mary Oliver poem written about the love of her life Molly Malone Cook. Beautifully, it exemplifies curiosity and discovery in relationships.

THE WHISTLER

All of a sudden she began to whistle. By all of a sudden
I mean that for more than thirty years she had not
whistled. It was thrilling. At first I wondered, who was
in the house, what stranger? I was upstairs reading, and
she was downstairs. As from the throat of a wild and
cheerful bird, not caught but visiting, the sounds war-
bled and slid and doubled back and larked and soared.

Finally I said, Is that you? Is that you whistling? Yes, she
said. I used to whistle, a long time ago. Now I see I can
still whistle. And cadence after cadence she strolled
through the house, whistling.

I know her so well, I think. I thought. Elbow and ankle.
Mood and desire. Anguish and frolic. Anger too.
And the devotions. And for all that, do we even begin
to know each other? Who is this I've been living with
for thirty years?

This clear, dark, lovely whistler?

Events and Activities



Sunrise Service

After 55 weeks without a service, we had an outdoor Sunrise Service in the parking lot. About 30 people were in attendance this Easter morning to listen to Sean and Jed preach the Good News of Jesus Rising from The Dead. Jed sermon "*What are you going to do with your comma?*" inspired so many of us. If you weren't

able to get your comma pin, there are some still available in the side entrance of the church.



Continuing Conversations

Join Sean Dunker-Bendigo every Wednesday from 8:00 a.m to 9:00 a.m. for conversation and connection. Grab a coffee, tea or beverage and join the conversation. Drop-in, stay awhile or pop in just to say hello and run. A free-flowing format with laughter, seriousness, creativity, dreaming, and everything in between. Join the [Zoom](#) meeting.



By The Poet's Light

Every Third
Thursday
7:00 PM

By the Poet's Light

Join Sean Dunker- Bendigo on **April 15** from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and continuing the third Thursday of every month for *By The Poet's Light*. Each month we will read and discuss powerful poems related to change, vision, and new beginnings. Join the [Zoom](#) Meeting.

Join Us Outdoors



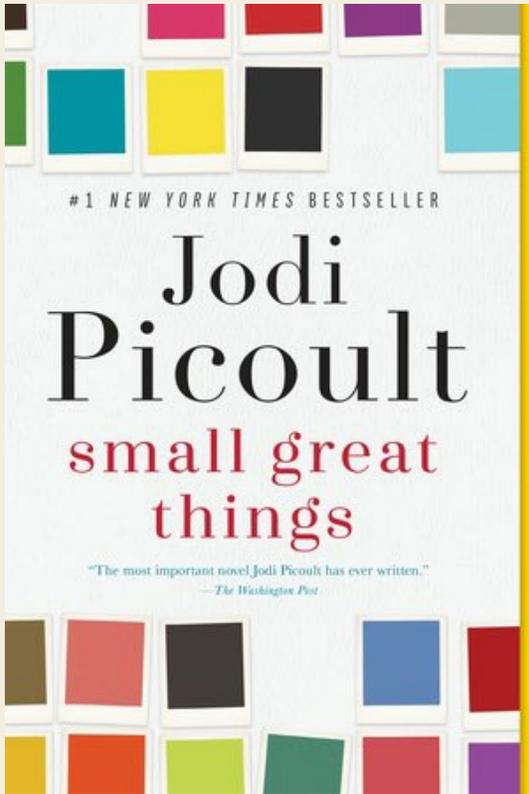
On Sunday April 18 at 2:00 p.m. you have the opportunity to get out into nature and see fellow South Churchers at The McLane Audubon Center on Silk Farm Road. There is a paved trail for

bikes and many hiking trails. For more information, contact [Lorens Jorengsen](#).



Chit Chat with Alison

Let's catch up . . . grab a cup of coffee or tea and maybe a special treat or snack on Monday, **April 19** from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Spend an hour catching up. We will be live via [Zoom](#). You don't have to [register](#) for this event, but if you do it will be helpful to know who to expect.



South Church Reads

Please consider participating in an all church reading experience: the novel, *Small Great Things*, by Jodi Picoult. This page-turning story is told through the viewpoint of three main characters, an experienced, black obstetric nurse named Ruth; a white supremacist named Turk, whose baby is born during Ruth's shift; and a white, female lawyer who is given the task of defending Ruth in a medical negligence case related to her care of Turk's baby. In what the book cover call's "Jodi Picoult's most important work," Picoult tackles some of the thorny issues of black and white perceptions and misperceptions and the factors that influence racial attitudes. All are invited to read the book. Gibson's Bookstore is offering to take 10% off the purchase price of *Small Great Things* for any

individual who says they are buying it for the South Church Reads project. In May, those who wish to do so will be able to sign up to participate in discussions of this book led by Lynne Morgan and Toni Callahan. Let's get reading!

Ministries

Moment of Mission

April Moment for Mission:

UCC Disaster Ministries and Earth Day

Every year, disasters leave families in need of spiritual, physical, financial and psychological support. While the Covid pandemic is a disaster affecting everyone: earthquakes, hurricanes, flooding, and other results of extremes in



weather are a double blow to communities around the world. These extremes are exacerbated by climate change. As the recent electrical outages during the deep freeze in Texas show, we humans are not always prepared to cope. In support of those who suffer due to natural and human-caused disasters, the Faith In Action Ministry designates April's Monthly Mission collection to the United Church of Christ's Disaster

Ministries. Please give generously to this cause. Also this month join us in honoring Earth Day 2021. Most years, South Church schedules a Day of Service when we come together for all kinds of clean-up and maintenance projects at church or in the community. This year, pick your own home-based or local activity that benefits the environment. For example, you might:

- pick up trash along a road
- watch a film and talk with a friend about it
- learn about your "food print" and prepare a healthy, sustainable meal

For all kinds of ideas, click [here](#). Be sure to write a line or post a photograph of what you do on South Church's facebook page. Donate [here](#).



Interim Minister News

Last month we established a Vision and Transition Team comprised of Jill Smart, Leanne Tigert, Pam Young, Sage Konstantakos, Chip Morgan, Sarah Willingham, Peter Imse, Janet Zeller and Jed Rardin. The team will advise and assist in programs that will help us as a congregation to explore our future vision, calling, and ministry needs and actions we need to take to get there. The team will help identify the questions we need to explore as a congregation, the information we need to



gather, the conversations we need to have together, publish a narrative document of our findings, and help our faith community identify and start new areas of ministry.

The essential elements in all of these tasks are your participation and the Spirit's guidance. Be on the lookout for upcoming programs that you can participate in. I am excited about the work we will do together and what will emerge from our conversations.

Blessings,
Sean

Church Community



The #GetMovin' 184 Challenge

This year South Congregational Church turns 184 years old, and while the number itself is not particularly significant, the year just ending has been one of most extraordinary in our lifetimes. The time is ripe to take our motto, *Radical Hope, Extravagant Love* in brand new directions! The **#Get Movin'184 Challenge** will help us do just that. (This is the event formerly known as South Church

Move-a-thon.)

The Get Movin'184 Challenge is a fundraiser and a friendraiser taking place during the week of May 28 to June 4. We will be raising money to support South Church missions AND giving a portion of what we raise to another community outreach program (to be announced). We also encourage participants from South Church to recruit friends who are non-members as participants or sponsors or both.



Janet Zeller

"In response to the South Church Get Movin'184 Challenge fundraiser and friend-



Peg Wenzel

"I'm accepting the challenge by organizing a team I'm calling "The Paddlers." On Sunday, May 30 at 10:00 a.m. We will each paddle 184

raiser, between May 28 to June 4, I plan to circle the Heritage Heights Campus on the 1 mile trail, 8 times in 4 days in my powered wheelchair. That's my Freestyle challenge. What can you do to meet the South Church Challenge?"

strokes or 1.84 miles on the Merrimack River. We can put them in by NHTI boat launch. Contact [me](#) to be an official "paddler." What can you do to meet the South Church Challenge?"

How It Works

- Choose any activity of your choice to engage in during the week of May 28 to June 4.
- Choose for yourself a challenge that incorporates each of the numbers 1, 8 and 4 in it (for example: 14.8 total miles run over the course of the seven day period; 1.84 miles walked each day for 7 days; 184 laps around your garden; 481 scales on your flute; anything goes!)

Stay tuned for more information in our April 22 edition of e-Lation!



Mobile Food Pantry

On Friday, **April 9** from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m., the Mobile Food Pantry will be located at 1 Granite Place in Concord. The NH Food Bank will bring a truckload of fresh food to distribute to families and individuals of Central NH. This event is open to all. Proof of residency or income is not needed. This is a drive thru event. All items will be distributed to you in your vehicles.



Circle Program

The Junior Service League is hosting a drive this month to benefit the Circle Program, which provides support and mentorship to underprivileged girls in New Hampshire. JSL will be collecting donations of certain items for the Circle Program's summer camp (sunscreen, bug spray, lip balm, feminine products, First Aid kits, and First Aid supplies) from April 1 to April 30. There is a collection box in the side entrance of South Church for your donations.

Texting Announcements

South Church can send you text announcements and reminders through the service *Flocknote*. This program was developed for churches to be in communication with their congregations. If you would like to receive



phone with a texting plan. We look forward to using this more direct means of communication to keep you informed with the exciting events happening at South Church. If you have any questions don't hesitate to contact Sean or the church office.

information about church events, cancellations, or reminders you can sign up by going to the church website and scrolling down to the bottom and filling out the simple form. Your information will be used by only South Church and you can cancel at any time by texting the word STOP. We envision a frequency of a text or two a week as a reminder of upcoming events. This service will work on any mobile



Study and Prayer

Bible Study ~ On **Tuesday, March 2** from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. the Tuesday Night Bible Study will continue reading the Book of Proverbs. All are welcome to join, whether to take part in reading or to simply listen to God's word. Please contact [JoAnne](#) if you are interested in joining the bible study and she will send you the

Zoom link.

Gathering for Prayer ~

Morning Prayer 7:30 a.m. to 8 a.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Click [here](#) to join.

Evening Prayer 7:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Mondays and Tuesdays.

Click [here](#) to join.



Prayers

Please keep the following people in your thoughts and prayers...

The family of Ted Loder, whose prayers have been part of our worship for years. Ted died earlier this week.

Those suffering PTSD during this pandemic.

Celebrate those receiving the Covid vaccine.

Celebration of our children and young adults.

If you would like the congregation to pray for someone and be added to our prayer list, please contact [Lou-Ann Poirier](#). She will also make Jed aware of your prayers.



April Birthdays

We want to wish our members who have April Birthdays

"A Very Happy Birthday!!"

If we missed your birthday that means it wasn't in the directory; so please send it to [Peg Wenzel](#).

April 1

Gavin Lesperance and Mary Rosenthal

April 4

Mitch Pelletier

April 5

Matthew French

April 6

Ann Winterling

April 8

Thomas Cleary and Linda Kenison

April 10

Andrea Bourn

April 14

Lynne Bloomquist, Bill Hall and Sue Marcotte-Jenkins

April 15

Israel Cawley

April 16

Leigh Cheney, Diane Jensen and Pat Knight

April 17

Martha Burnham, Deborah Carley, Christopher Caswell, Jonathan Landry and Glenn Vodra

April 18

Autrey Gates, Ginger Gates, Carol Meredith and Anabelle Watson

April 20

Craig Jensen and Warren Nelson

April 21

Eugene Shear

April 22

Lee Alison

April 23

Jon Evans, Sarah Dolcino and Tom Weston

April 25

Robert Larsen and Wyatt Jones

April 27

Aiden Ciminesi

April 28

Jerry Walls

April 29

Abe Nelson

April 30

Ginny Mierins and Sheri Zawisza



South Congregational Church
27 Pleasant Street
Concord, NH 03301
www.southchurchconcord.org