

e-lation!

SOUTH CHURCH

United Church of Christ

Reflecting the Sacred

*When you see lights twinkle,
when you catch a reflection in a mirror,
when you notice the sunlight dancing on a surface
or a nightlight glowing in the darkness,
let these be signs that the Christ Light is revealed
again and again in and through this world.*

*Know that your brilliant presence
is pouring more hope into a weary world.
God loved us by becoming us.
This means you are already reflecting the sacred.
Amen.*

Extravagant Love



Moment for Mission

'Tis the season for ALTERNATIVE Gift Giving! The Faith in Action Ministry has identified Fellowship Housing Opportunities for our Alternative Gift Giving program this season. Fellowship Housing is an agency well poised and continues to be a primary source of decent, safe, high-quality housing, and support to people recovering from mental

illness. Today, with over 60 renters; numerous others benefiting from behavioral health services; and tenants' needs for in-home supportive services Fellowship Housing in partnership with Riverbend Community Mental Health, offers outreach services to residents in their housing projects.

This Christmas the Faith in Action Ministry is offering you a unique way for you to honor someone you care about with a monetary gift that helps an organization that serves the Concord community. These gifts can be purchased during coffee hour in Fellowship Hall after the 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. worship services on **December 4** and **December 11**, or online via the South Church [website](#). Paper or electronic cards are available to share with your honoree. South Church will send your donation to Fellowship Housing Opportunities. To purchase your alternative gift this season, [click here](#). If you have any questions, contact [Peggy Scott](#).

Our Christian Community



The Advent Season

This Advent, we will again be worshipping in the spirit of Marcia McFee's new worship series, Reflecting the Sacred. *"The Christmas season is a time when the juxtaposition of the sacred and the secular feels sometimes blatantly opposed, and sometimes quite blurred. The word 'sacred' points to something dedicated as holy and set apart. This year, you are invited to a spiritual journey of seeing all things pregnant with the holy. What could our experience of Advent and the Christmas season be like if we lived it imagining that everything is reflecting the sacred?"* This Advent, come and be with us. Be with us as we cross the threshold into a new and renewing spiritual connection. Let us come together in Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love!



Ornament Making

On **Sunday, December 4** from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. we will be making Advent ornaments. You will be able to decorate your tree with homemade decorations and some for the church tree. If you are a knitter, we will be making prayer ornaments for the Ukraine that will hang on our peace tree. If you have knitting needles size #4 and #5, please bring them. If you are not a knitter, but like to learn, we will teach you. Sign-up today.



Service of Remembrance

The Lay Ministry Visitors team is holding a Service of Remembrance on **Tuesday, December 6** at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary. The season of Advent can be lonely and sad for those who have lost a loved one. At this service, along with a pastoral reflection, all

who wish to do so will be invited to light a candle in memory of a particular loved one. All are welcome!



Family Promise

We will be assisting Temple Beth Jacob the week of **December 11 to December 18** 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, serving dinner or breakfast, visiting with the families, and staying overnight. For more information contact our coordinators. To sign-up to volunteer click [here](#).



Holiday Worship Services

Christmas Eve ~ Saturday, December 24

4 p.m. Family Worship Service

7 p.m. Festival of Lessons and Carols
(available live-stream)

11 p.m. Candlelight and Communion

Christmas Day ~ Sunday, December 25– No worship service

New Year's Day ~ Sunday, January 1– Worship service at 9 a.m.

Sunday, January 9 – Epiphany Tableau will be at 9 a.m.

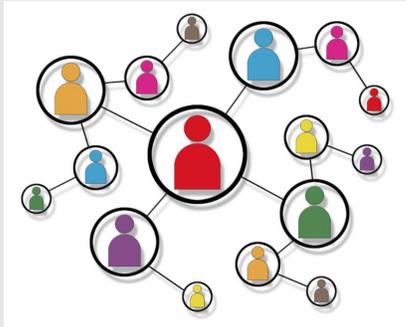
We will resume our two worship services on **Sunday, January 15**.



Winter Collection

This Christmas season the Genesis Circle women collected hats, mittens, socks, and scarves. These essential winter wears were donated to Concord Coalition to End Homelessness. While the winter season has

not gripped New Hampshire, rest assure that when it does, people will be warmer because of these kindhearted women.



Keeping in Touch

It can be a challenge for any of us to stay on top of the sea of information. The very best way to stay in touch with the pulse of the church is, quite simply, to attend church, but given all the changes going on at South Church, including Sean's departure mid-

January, we are working extra-hard to keep everyone up-to-date. Here are the ways you can get information:

- The website which is our primary news outlet. We are adding a page to the website answering your questions about the search processes for a new Senior Pastor and a part-time, temporary Acting Ministry Associate.
- e-Lation! our newsletter which goes out on the first and third Thursdays of each month.
- Flocknote is a way to send important updates through text. If you want to be included on that list, simply register on the website.
- Our FaceBook page: South Church, UCC Concord
- The Sunday bulletin and announcements from the pulpit.
- Monthly meeting minutes are available by calling Kayla.

If there's anything any of us can do to enhance your access to information, please give anyone of us on staff call. We appreciate your work and trying to keep us well-connected during this time of change.
Sincerely, Pastor Jed and the rest of the staff



Personnel Ministry Update

We are beginning the process to hire an Acting Ministry Associate. This person will serve in a part time, temporary role as our church is in the midst of staffing transitions. We ask that you join our Ministry

in prayer as the search process begins. We look forward to providing further details about the process soon.

Masks

Due to the rising incidence of hospitalizations for Covid-related illnesses as well as RSV, we invite people to consider wearing masks



for the short-term to ease the burden on Emergency Rooms.

Faithful Stewards

A festive graphic for a yard sale. It features several Christmas ornaments in various colors and patterns (yellow, red, green, white) hanging from strings. In the center, a white oval contains the text: "South Church Yard Sale Midnight Merriment". Below this, it says "Friday, December 2 ~ 6p.m. to 9p.m.", "Fellowship Hall", and "27 Pleasant Street, Concord NH". A red circular logo at the bottom left says "Support our mission and ministries.".

South Church
Yard Sale
Midnight Merriment

Friday, December 2 ~ 6p.m. to 9p.m.
Fellowship Hall
27 Pleasant Street, Concord NH

Support our mission and ministries.



Amazon Smile

This holiday season do not forget to support South Church through Amazon Smile. If you sign your Amazon account up with Amazon Smile, Amazon will donate 0.5% of your purchase to South Church at no cost to you and no cost to the church! If you have any questions, contact [Kayla](#).

UCC Community

Sacred Ally Quilt Ministry



The Sacred Ally Quilts will be on display at the New Hampshire Conference office on 140 Sheep Davis Road in Pembroke during the month of December. These quilts were lovingly made by nine UCC churches in NH to memorialize the last words of George Floyd. They have traveled around the state, the nation, and internationally. We are blessed with the opportunity to exhibit them here in the Conference office. The quilts may be viewed during regular office hours

from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. with extended evening hours on Monday through Thursday from 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m., and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Please call the Conference office with questions.



Humanist Chaplaincy

A Model for Public Conversations? Join Elisa Rosoff, the first Humanist Chaplain at the North Carolina Correctional Institute for Women, on **Tuesday, December 12** at noon via Zoom. This event is sponsored by the *What In God's Name* project and podcast hosted by UCC ministers Chris Owen and Shayna Appel. To reserve your spot click, on

this [link](#).

ADVENT OPEN HOUSE

Save the Date
December 14th
2:00 - 5:00

New Hampshire Conference
140 Sheep Davis Road
Pembroke, NH



Women's Celebration

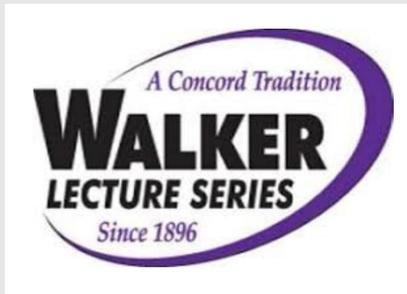
The New England Women's Celebration will be held on **March 17 to 19** at DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in Manchester. It is held the weekend of Mothering Sunday, the 4th Sunday of Lent, which is traditionally a time when the strict observances of Lent were relaxed for a day so church folks could return to the Mother Church of their roots.

The purpose of the Celebration is to reach women in the pews and to involve them in learning and sharing their faith beyond the local church and conference setting. It is organized by women from UCC congregations across New England; however, women from all denominations and religious traditions are welcome to attend. This year the keynote speakers are Dr. Velda Love (National UCC Justice & Peace speaker and advocate); Rev. Karoline Lewis (a Johannian scholar); and Rev. Marcia McFee. The speakers have collaborated for months to put together four fabulous

worship experiences. The weekend will be filled with reconnecting with friends, making new ones, and forming connections with women of faith.

The UCC New England Women's Celebration XI is just under four months away! Registration is open now (prices will go up on January 1.) All the details and registration for Celebration XI their [website](#). [Cy Sherman](#) is planning to attend on Saturday, March 18. If you are interested in joining her, please reach out to [Cy](#).

Local Community



Walker Series

The Fall Walker Lecture Series has begun. All performances are free and open to the public; no tickets or reservations are required. Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis, and doors open 30 minutes prior to programs. All shows are held at the

Concord City Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. For a complete schedule, visit their [website](#).

Handel's Messiah open rehearsal will be on **Saturday, December 3** at 10 a.m. at the Audi. A musical rite of the holiday season, this Baroque-era oratorio still awes listeners more than 250 years after the composer's death. Concord's performance, conducted by Benjamin Greene, will include professional soloists and a community chorus. The Messiah will be performed at St. Paul's Church on **Sunday, December 4** at 7 p.m.

Pianist Frederick Moyer celebrates the holiday season and Beethoven's birthday. (December 16, 1770) with a Piano Concert series. Joining Moyer will be bassist Peter Tillotson and drummer Jim Gwin. The winter concert will include a variety of music such as Bach: Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring; Beethoven: Waldstein Sonata; Bartok: Rumanian Christmas Carols; Jazz arrangements of Let It Snow, The Christmas Song, Borukh Ate, Zingt Der Tate, Christmas is Coming and others. These concerts will be broadcasted on Concord TV starting **Sunday, November 27 and will continue through Saturday, December 24**. Performances will be on Sundays at 9 p.m.; Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m., Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. and Saturdays at 2:30 p.m. Please note that these concerts are not live, but on Concord TV.

Quilt Project

The 45,000 Quilt Project will be on display at the UU church located at 274 Pleasant Street



THE 45,000 QUILT PROJECT

TRAVELING THE US TO BRING ATTENTION TO THE **INHUMANITY** OF IMMIGRATION DETENTION

**T-F 10-3 & Sat 10-2
till Dec 20**



in Concord now through Monday, **December 19**. This work of art brings together the efforts of over 60 immigrant justice activists and artists from across the US and Mexico to show the extent of immigrant detention in our country and work toward more humane solutions. The exhibit is free and open to the public Tuesday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be a panel discussion on **Saturday, December 17** from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Meet some of the creators of the quilt and hear about making of the quilts and “*What is Going on with Immigration in NH?*” There will be a worship service on **Sunday, December 18** at 10 a.m. with

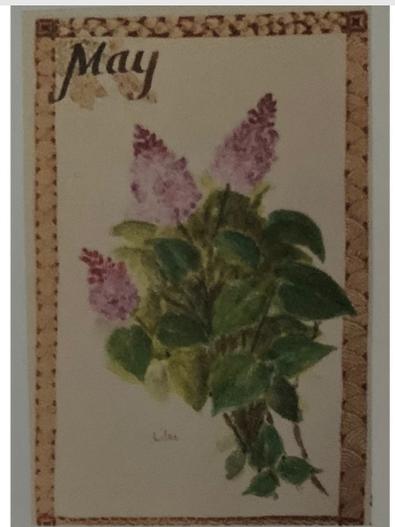
guest Eva Castillo, Director of NH Alliance for Immigrants and Refugees. For more information contact their church [office](#).



Red River Theater

The Red River presents holiday movie favorites! Classically crafted to enhance your holiday season, you will love them regardless

of how many times you may have watched them. Especially enjoyable when seen on a big theater screen with an appreciative audience! Tickets to these special event are \$9 for everyone and only \$5 for The Polar Express, so bring the whole family! Here is the schedule: *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation* is on **Saturday, December 3** at 11 a.m.; *Elf* is on **Saturday, December 10** and **Sunday, December 11** at 11 a.m.; and *The Polar Express* is on **Saturday, December 17** and **Sunday, December 18** at 11 a.m. For more information check out their [website](#).



Gallery Opening

The Susan N. McLane Center presents a group exhibit called “*Watercolor Reflections On/In Nature.*” Opening reception will be on **Tuesday, December 6** from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Meet the artist, peruse their nature journals, and talk with fellow nature lovers. Participating artist include Becky Darling, Susan Huppi, Mary Jo MacGowan, Mary Borowski, Lori Hartling, [Emily Geoghegan](#), [Pat Gruttemeyer](#), [Fran Irvine](#), and Elizabeth Gibbs. The exhibit is visible

Tuesday to Friday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. starting **December 1 through January 18, 2023**. For more information check out their [website](#).



Songweavers

The Songweavers Women's Chorus and Northern Lights Vocal Ensemble with Director Peggio Horstmann Hodes present a concert, "*Tending the Spark*" on **Friday, December 16** at 7 p.m. at South Church. Joining the singers will be the Songweavers Drummers, co-directed by Grace and Lindsey Schust. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$15 for children under 12 or seniors. Tickets can be purchased on the Concord Music School [website](#).



Breakfast with Santa

The Friends Program mission is to build positive connections and solutions for at-risk youth, families, and seniors. They help people end the cycle of homelessness, overcome the effects of poverty and abuse, and break out of isolation and depression. Their unique difference is that they focus on using the power of human connection to address the root causes of social problems with individualized support, tools and resources.

On **Saturday, December 17** at 8:30 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. the Friends Program will be hosting a *Breakfast with Santa* at South Church. Join them for yummy treats, holiday crafts, and visit with the jolly one, himself! Tickets are \$10 and children under 5 eat free (but still require a ticket). Tickets can be purchased on their [website](#). All proceeds will benefit the Emergency Housing Family Shelter.

The next e-Lation! will arrive on Thursday, December 15.

If you wish to add something to our newsletter, please submit your article by Friday, December 9 to [Alison](#).



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