

South Congregational Church UCC

# e-Lation!

## The Blessing of Togetherness

In case you hadn't noticed lately, South Church has been abuzz with various new forms of togetherness. The Bylaws Committee. The Finance Ministry. The Memorial Gifts Committee. Nearly everyone is either taking a fresh look at some older, guiding documents, or coming together to analyze all that Alison did so that the congregation can decide how best to hire new people to begin filling in some of the gaps. It's great work, and I commend you all for paving the way forward. It's also a lot of meetings!

I have no idea over the years how many church meetings I've attended. But I do know that I won't remember them as well as I remember the casual moments of fellowship, of simply being together and enjoying each other's company, the way we did at "Breaking Bread." I am so grateful to the Faith Formation Ministry for hosting the breaking bread dinner that celebrated me. It was the kind of fun that encouraged silliness, which inspired me to attempt to sing a [list of 40 events](#) that had occurred in Fellowship Hall over the past 22 years to the tune of *Amazing Grace*. It was not particularly musical, but it was a part of who we are when we're simply together.

We are citizens of the information age, but information does not, by itself, gather people in. Information does not automatically build connection. Which is why, when I step down five weeks from now, what I will remember the most

is *you*: the wonderful, kind, wise people of South Church,  
and the funny, joyful, mournful, prayerful, faithful moments  
that gathered us in.

Together.

Those memories will stay with me well into the future.

With gratitude,

Jed

## South Church News and Events

### Thank You from Abby

Dearest South Church,

Your kindness and generosity in celebrating my first ten years at South Church mean the world to me! Thank you for your gifts and for the beautiful cards containing so many heartfelt messages. I feel so blessed to make music here in such a loving community.

Thank you!  
Abby



### Youth Groups

Sr. High Youth Group meets regularly on **Sundays** from 7-8:30pm.

Jr. High Youth Group meets **Sunday, March 24** for "Pizza & Planning". Please come and join us for games, food, and talking about ideas and plans for what we will do this spring. Please contact Diana Zeller (603-848-7240) for more details if you are interested in joining us.

## Nursery

In order to be able to adequately staff the Nursery program, it will be available on the **1st and 3rd Sunday** of each month **through June**. The space will be available for families to use during the other Sundays of the month. If you are interested in volunteering in the Nursery please sign up [here](#). If you have any questions please contact Diana Zeller.



## March Church School

We will be providing church school this month on **March 10, and 17**. Our services will be intergenerational on Palm Sunday and Easter. During these services our "prayer-ground" area (in the back of the church) which will be stocked with books, and quiet

activities will be available for children. Kind members of Temple Beth will provide Nursery care on Easter Sunday!

## Cabaret and Cookies

One of the ways South Church is going to honor Jed is through an event that we are calling "Cabaret and Cookies." This event will be held at the church on **Saturday, March 9** starting at 4 p.m. with a Cabaret of music in the sanctuary. If you are a musician and would like to perform something, please contact [Sue Berlenbach](#). We anticipate the Cabaret will last around an hour. When it is over, we will move to the Fellowship Hall for the "Cookies" part of the celebration. Please feel free to bring a dessert of any kind to share with one another and we will have time to mingle, converse, and be present with one another as we celebrate Jed!





## Ministry Fair

During coffee hour on **Sunday, March 10**, our ministries and committees will be hosting an activity fair. While you enjoy the youth group bake sale please visit the various tables and consider whether you might enjoy working with one of these groups. We know that everyone is busy but “many hands make light work” and

several of our ministries could use some extra hands. Serving with others on a committee and ministry is a wonderful way to be engaged and develop closer relationships with others in the congregation, so please consider volunteering.

## 2024-2025 Pledge Drive

*The clock is ticking...* Please get your pledge card to the office, into the offering plate or on-line at the church website (under Support Ministry; Pledge Form 2024-25). Pledge cards are also available at the back of the church. We need to have all pledges by **mid-March**. While July 1, 2024 is when the new pledges begin to be paid, the office needs to know now the total income that will be pledged, so that the church budget can be developed. The budget will be voted on at the Annual Meeting in May, so it's being developed NOW so there's time to clear all the committees before that vote. Your pledge will make a difference! Thank you to all who have already sent in your pledges.



## Gift for Jed

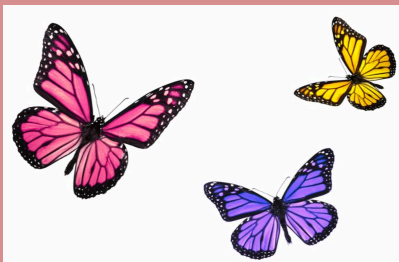
Many people have asked how to present Jed with an appropriate gift to honor his time with us. The Council has agreed that the most meaningful gift for him and his family would be for us to pool together a cash gift to be presented at the April 13 Jubilee celebration. If you would like to contribute to that fund, please send a check made out to South Church, with “Jed



Retirement gift” in the memo. You can also contribute [online](#). The deadline to make your contribution is **April 10**. Thank you!

## Sanctuary Flowers

The flowers on the altar on Sunday morning have a significant role not only in brightening up the sanctuary but in recognizing those the donor wants to honor. Dianna Powers has been organizing these flowers for the past 3 years. Many new members do not know who she is and her email requesting your participation may go unanswered because it goes to your junk folder. If you should get an email from diannapowers@comcast.net please respond even if you cannot participate in donating. Also, check your spam folder. Thank you!



## Butterflies for Easter

In anticipation of Easter, we are beginning our preparations. We plan to decorate the inside of the church with butterflies for our Easter Service.

Why butterflies? The butterfly life cycle symbolizes the life of Christ: the caterpillar or first stage stands for Christ's life on earth. The cocoon stage portrays Christ's death at the cross and burial. The third, and most important, phase is Christ's rising after three days.

We are asking all members to help us in this decorating effort by coloring a butterfly (or two) which we have available at the back of the church and in the church office. If you want to create a butterfly of your own making, that is great too! The color sheets are available now and we are asking that you return them by **Sunday, March 24**. If you have any questions, please contact [Diana Zeller](#).

## CFCS Annual Meeting and Dinner

The Concord Female Charitable Society (organized in 1812) cordially invites new members (women) and contributors (men) to aid in its work of quiet, friendly, local benevolence. The annual membership fee is \$1; life membership is \$10. The Annual Meeting and Turkey Supper will be held at Alan's Restaurant in Boscawen on **Tuesday, April 9** at 5pm. Tickets are \$24; The program for the evening will be a presentation by Julie Coles from the Pierce Brigade about the Old North Cemetery Women. Please contact a board member from South Church for membership and supper reservations:

- **Cheryl Nickerson** - 603-731-7180
- **Sara Willingham** - 603-419-0574
- **Eileen Jones** - 603-731-0302



## Fresh Start Farms CSA

South Church is planning to join the Fresh Start Farms C.S.A. This allows you to start receiving vegetables grown by new Americans. If we get 4 more people to sign up they will have a pick up at South Church on **Wednesdays**. CSA shares are \$35 a week.

Contact **Lorens Jorgensen** for sign up opportunities.

## Is There a Techie in the House?

South Church needs the help of a technology-savvy volunteer to 1) lead a technology needs assessment and, 2) help develop a technology plan for meeting our needs. This is a one-time, short-term project that will have a great impact on South Church's capacity to grow into our mission and vision. If you can lend your technical expertise and skills to South Church, please contact South Church's co-Treasurer, Sue Marcotte-Jenkins, at 603-502-3456 or [sosume414@outlook.com](mailto:sosume414@outlook.com).



## South Church Delegates Committee Report

Delegates Kit DeVries and Cy Sherman joined others at the North Barnstead UCC on 5/21/23. Delegates Cherie Shaw, Joanne Varga, Kit DeVries, and Cy Sherman attended the October 2023 Merrimack Association Meeting. As per our Church Bylaws, the delegation submits a report to the congregation twice a year.

For more information, please read the [full report here](#).

## NH UCC Events

### Anti-Racism Ministries Group Pot-Lunch

The Anti-Racism Ministries Group (ARMg) of the NH Conference, United Church of Christ and the Racial Justice Team (RJT) at Northwood Congregational Church (NCC) invite all interested parties from your church family to a pot-luck lunch and discussion of the many ways we can be involved in the mission and ministry of promoting anti-racism in our churches and community. It will take place on Sunday, March 10, 2024 at 1 pm at the NCC, 881 1st NH Turnpike (aka route 4), Northwood, NH. It is next door to Coe-Brown Academy High School in Northwood.

The ARMg has been working on a menu of actions that individuals, small groups, and entire congregations can do to humbly increase relationships of people of European descent (white people) between people who are Black, Indigenous, or other Peoples of Color (BIPOC). We believe that as friendships and relationships between these races/ethnicities/cultures blossom, deepen, and prosper, that attitudes and beliefs about each other will change for the better. Knowledge and understanding will grow and as a result, racism will diminish.

[More info here.](#)





## NHCUCC's Second Annual Anti-Racism Lecture

With Guest Speaker Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson

All are welcome! Come hear UCC General Minister and President Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson speak at Brookside Church in Manchester, NH, on Sunday, April 7th at 5 pm for the New Hampshire Conference's second Annual Anti-Racism Lecture.

[Click here to register for free.](#) \*Please fill out one form for each person attending the event. This will help us know how many people to

expect and make necessary arrangements. \*

[Watch](#) the installation of Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson as the 10th UCC General Minister and President.

Can't make it in person on the 7th? Let us know in the form that you won't be with us in person to receive the streaming link. Invite a friend and we will see you there!

## Horton Center

Its time to schedule your retreat to Horton Center! Haven't signed up for camp yet?

[Take a look](#) at all the great camp offerings this summer season!

Interested in being a counselor? [Fill out this form](#) and plan to attend an info session to learn more about the opportunities!



## Cindy Bradley Retirement Party

Join us on **March 6**, from 3pm-6pm at the Conference Office, as we celebrate the retirement of our beloved Administrative Assistant, Cindy Bradley. After nine years of dedicated service to our Conference, Cindy will be retiring effective March 15, 2024.





If you are unable to make the March 6 date, we ask you consider writing her a letter thanking her for her many years of service! Please mail your letters to 140 Sheep Davis Road, Pembroke, NH 03275 c/o Thaddeus Sieverding.

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

[Unsubscribe office@southchurchconcord.org](mailto:office@southchurchconcord.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by [kayla@southchurchconcord.ccsend.com](mailto:kayla@southchurchconcord.ccsend.com) powered by



Try email marketing for free today!