

Black Poets, Poems, and Psalms for Summer

e-Lation!



June 20, 2024

"One pattern I've noticed as people celebrate Juneteenth is the tendency to skip past slavery and rush to emancipation.

Many people in the United States are quick to gloss over the unpleasantness of human bondage and simply celebrate the freedom that came afterwards.

James Baldwin got it right when he said,

"It is worthwhile to point out that for most Americans slavery is quite remote and America herself would really prefer that we remained dispassionate about it. Well I, for one, will never be dispassionate about slavery or any other unforgivable atrocity committed against humanity."

You can't appreciate the joy of Juneteenth unless you understand the sorrow of slavery.

I think the actual day of Juneteenth should be one of joy and exuberance.

Leading up to Juneteenth, however, we should take a few moments to remember the crushing reality of slavery.

This isn't about being morbid or making a spectacle of human suffering. It is about honoring the history, the full history, of Black freedom by recognizing the bondage that prevented it for so long."

-Jemar Tisby, PHD

[We encourage you to read the full article here.](#)

June 19 was Juneteenth. To learn more about this holiday, please [visit here](#).

June Moment for Mission: PRIDE Month!

We celebrate PRIDE month in June! Faith in Action has selected The Unity House in Keene, NH for the Moment for Mission. Unity House is a group home for LGBTQ+ youth ages 14-18 that offers a safe and supportive living environment as these youth navigate various life challenges. The house is staffed 24/7 by licensed clinicians, and these therapists and mental health consultants offer stabilization services, treatment planning, and individual, family, group, and couples' therapy. The Unity House is a program under the

Home for Little Wanderers that has been helping children in Massachusetts and New Hampshire for over 200 years. This organization develops programs to create permanent and positive change for infants, youth, and young adults. The breadth of their service at the Unity House in Keene also includes opportunities for vocational training and community building, with community service projects, sports, and social and support groups. To learn more about The Unity House located in Keene, please [visit their website](#).



**SOUTH CHURCH
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

NEEDS YOUR HELP!

**INDIVIDUALLY
WRAPPED
ITEMS NEEDED:**
GRANOLA BARS
FRUIT CUPS
PEANUT BUTTER CRACKERS
CHIPS
POPCORN
PRETZELS

**WE ARE KIDS HELPING KIDS
TO SHOW
"GOD'S LOVE IN ACTION"**

**MAKING SNACK BAGS FOR
LOCAL KIDS IN NEED**

**DROP OFF IN BOX IN
CHURCH LOBBY NOW
THROUGH JUNE 21ST**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION
PLEASE CONTACT
BECCA YOHE AT 603.568.2126**



Parking

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 N. Main St.! Please contact the office if you have questions or for an application.

Garden Update

Be sure to admire the refurbished garden on the east side of the church, dedicated to the memory of Alison Ward Nyhan. The project was paid for by a grant from the Concord Garden Club, the South Church Memorial Fund, and the Buildings and Grounds Committee which developed the plan and oversaw its completion. Many hands made light work in mulching the new garden, as well as the gardens facing Pleasant Street. Thank you to Garden Club members Pam Young, Liz Garlo, Debbie Carley, and Kim Arndt, joined by Gail Desjardins, Eugene Shear, Chris Carley, Bob Murphy, Steve Arndt, and Og Young who pitched in to get the job done.



Message from the Lay Ministry Visitors

When some sort of transition, be it happy or sad, has happened in your life, you may get a call from one of South Church's Lay Ministry Visitors offering to pay you a personal visit. If this happens, please know that the intent of the visit is to offer community, connection, and, perhaps, comfort. The Lay Ministry Visitors, who have been trained in compassionate listening, hope to embody both South Church's caring for you and God's love for you. Even if you don't feel the "need" for a visit, feel free to accept a Lay Ministry Visitor's offer, for this ministry of comfort, caring, and connection is intended as a gift to you.

If you know of someone in the congregation who may want a visit, and/or, if you yourself would like to talk with a Lay Minister, for any reason, please contact:

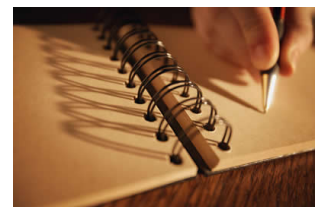
Toni Callahan (603-568-0559)

Kathy Daniels (603-738-6669)

or Ellen Fries (603-568-5880)

Volunteers Needed

Would you be willing to volunteer during worship service on Sunday? We need Ushers and Lay Readers for the months of June, July, and August. For more information or to sign up, [click here](#) or contact the office. Thank you for your support!



Evening Prayer Summer Hiatus

Beginning Monday, June 24, Evening Prayer will be on



hiatus until Monday, September 9.

Around the NH UCC

The NH-CUCC sends out a weekly newsletter. If you would like to sign up for this in-depth newsletter, please do so by scrolling down on the homepage of the [NHCUCC website](#).

Special Announcement from Conference Minister Rev. Gordon Rankin

Friends in the New Hampshire Conference,

In October, I will have served among you for six years. That means I am due (actually, a little past due) for sabbatical leave. In consultation with our

Conference Board of Directors, I have chosen to split my leave time in half. The first part will be taken in November and December 2024 and the second part in November and December 2025.

According to the little countdown clock on my phone, that means I start sabbatical in 4 months and 16 days. (I promise I don't check the countdown all that often.) It seems it was about time to share some of the details with the broader conference.

In 2024, I will be combining six weeks of sabbatical leave with some vacation time. I will begin sabbatical on Monday, November 4th. I will be "back in the office" on Monday, January 6, 2025.

The core of this sabbatical time will be spending approximately three weeks in Zimbabwe. This will be my first visit with our Ukama partners in the United Church of Christ in Zimbabwe. I couldn't be more delighted that it is happening in a way that allows me the time and space to truly get to know the people in our partner



churches. That is not to say there won't be any official functions. I feel honored to have been asked to offer the Charge for the Reverend John Matiza's Installation for his last term as UCCZ President.

After I return from Zimbabwe, I will have one other trip. I will be heading to Pheonix for the Authorizing Ministry in the 21 Century event that is held every two years.

Other than that, I will be spending the remainder of my sabbatical time reflecting on and writing about my time in Zimbabwe. Having dedicated time for reflection and writing will be a true gift.

While I am away, my responsibilities will be covered by our Associate Conference Minister, the Reverend Sara Marean, and Bridge Conference Minister, the Reverend Campbell Lovett. Sara will be picking up much of the Search and Call part of my portfolio as she already has relational connections with all of our churches. Campbell will be handling the executive function part of my responsibilities and staff the Committees for Church and Ministry that I normally staff. The Bridge Conference Minister position will be a 20 hour per week position.

For those who are not familiar with Reverend Lovett, he has previously served as Conference Minister of the Michigan Conference and Transitional Conference Minister in the South Central Conference. More recently, Campbell served as the Interim Pastor at the Congregational Church of Laconia.

Friends, I covet your prayers as I prepare for this blessed time of travel and renewal.



Pride Month Happenings

Happy Pride! June 1 begins Pride month. LGBTQ+ pride month is an invitation to live out our commitment to God's love for the marginalized and oppressed via celebration of the LGBTQ+ community in our Churches, and communities. We hope you will join one of many pride celebrations across the Granite State.

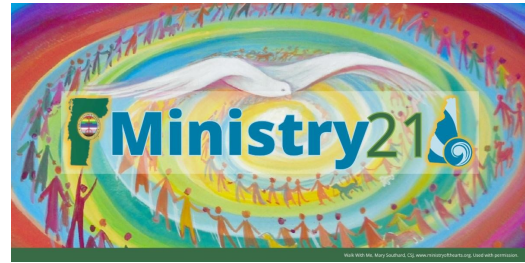
[You can read more about the history of pride from the Library of Congress](#)

We invite you also to take action! Multiple bills ([HB619](#), [396](#), [1205](#), and [1312](#)) that limit access to healthcare, non-discrimination protections, and more for our LGBTQ+ youth are all headed to Governor Sununu's desk. You can read a [summary and send an email to the Governor with this handy tool](#) or call the Governor's office (603-271-2121). Our Conference Minister and Associate

Justice, it's a Jesus thing.

Ministry21

Ministry21 has a spot on the new conference website! [Check it out!](#)



Whether You're a Seasoned Leader or
New to Your Role, We're Here to
Support You in Strengthening Your Church Community Ministry21 is for You!

...for Lay Leaders of Local Churches:

Empower yourself with the skills and knowledge needed to lead your congregation effectively. Our courses cover worship leadership, administrative best practices, financial management, and more.

...for Members in Discernment:

Immerse yourself in a supportive environment for your discernment journey. Explore your calling and develop the skills needed for ministry. Prepare for ordained ministry with confidence and clarity. Our course offerings will compliment those of other partners in discernment and be identified with your Formation and Preparation Plans in mind.

...for Licensed Clergy:

Advance your professional development and deepen your ministry skills with our three-year track designed to support you in developing the foundational competency necessary for licensed leadership in the setting that has called or will call you. Engage in courses offered by Ministry21 beyond these to continue your development and discernment. From pastoral care to innovative ministry models, we have courses to inspire and equip you for effective leadership.

...for Ordained Clergy:

Reignite your passion and vision for ministry with our transformative courses. Explore new possibilities for revitalizing your ministry, developing entrepreneurial skill sets, and establishing vital ministerial programs for the church and the world.

Learn More about Ministry 21 on our [new website!](#)

HORTON CENTER NEEDS YOU!!

Volunteer Counselors are NEEDED

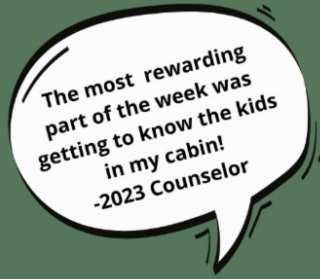
Do you love working with kids?

Do you love being out in nature?

Do you love being part of a welcoming, community?

If yes, what are you waiting for?!

Join us for an amazing week on the mountain this summer!



Horton Center Counselors Needed!

Volunteer counselors are NEEDED at Horton Center this summer! The amazing ministry of our conference's summer camp cannot happen without you!

I hope you will consider taking a week away from the busyness of your summer schedule to unplug with us on Pine Mountain for a week of creating intentional, loving, Christian community with kids of all ages. Our volunteer deans are recruiting counselors for their team of volunteers to help make their programming happen, to help keep campers safe in the cabins in the evenings and to help have FUN! Please [email Tivvi](#) if you are interested, or you know someone who might be!

See you on the mountain!

2024 Star Gathering UCC Conferences

*2024 Star Gathering UCC Conferences
The Star Gathering United Church of Christ Conferences are held on Star Island, off the coast of New Hampshire*



Summer camp in a hotel, amazing island-scape views, and fun are on offer at Star Island!

There are 4 programs across 3 time-periods:

SG1 Family Week July 28 - Aug 4
SG1 Youth Week July 28 - Aug 4
SG2 Family Week Aug 4 - Aug 11
SG Family Weekend Aug 30 - Sept 2

[View this poster for more information](#)

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

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