

# South Church

CONCORD, NH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



## *In Praise of Hands*

by Diann L. Neu

*Blessed be the works of Your hands, O Holy One.  
Blessed be these hands that have touched life.  
Blessed be these hands that have nurtured creativity.  
Blessed by these hands that have held pain.  
Blessed be these hands that have embraced with passion.  
Blessed be these hands that have tended gardens.  
Blessed be these hands that have closed in anger.  
Blessed be these hands that have planted new seeds.  
Blessed be these hands that have harvested ripe fields.  
Blessed by these hands that have  
cleaned, washed, mopped, scrubbed.  
Blessed be these hands that have become knotty with age.  
Blessed be these hands that are wrinkled and  
scarred for doing justice.  
Blessed be these hands that have reached out and been received.  
Blessed be these hands that hold the promise of the future.  
Blessed be the works of Your hands, O Holy One.*

### Thresholds in Our Life Together

The sermons these past two weeks have hinged on this quote from Parker Palmer: ***“Each time a door closes, the rest of the world opens up. All we need to do is stop pounding on the door that just closed, turn around—and welcome the largeness of life that now lies open to our soul.”***

As we listen for God's voice in discerning our future as a congregation, we are all asked to ponder these questions:

- What doors in our congregational life might need to close so that we are free to open other doors?
- What doors do you believe are waiting to be opened and thereby reveal "the rest of the world?"



## Rally Sunday

---

**Sunday, September 12**

On Rally **Sunday, September 12**, join us at 9 a.m. either in-person or on-line as we embark on a brand-new program year! We will celebrate God's gift of a new year in which to proclaim the good news of radical hope and extravagant love. We will welcome Maurice Tiner, Director of Race & Ethnicity Programs at Connecticut College as a participant in our worship. Maurice will be visiting as a guest of the Racial Justice Task Force. We look forward to welcoming one another in the sanctuary (we will continue to wear masks) AND on zoom for those who prefer the virtual worship setting.

Please note that there will be one service at 9a.m. in the sanctuary, and of course the on-line Zoom option if you prefer to worship from home. Talk it up! Make plans to be here. Invite someone back home you haven't seen in a while! Take a risk and invite someone who really needs to be blessed. Expect joy, gratitude and jazz!

## Confirmation Sunday

---

**Sunday, September 19**

Join us on **Sunday, September 19** in worship at 9 a.m. either in-person or on-line as we celebrate the faith journeys of Brianna Blake, Aiden Ciminesi, Madison Mayo, Alex McPherson, Will McPherson, Colby Nyhan, Nick Robie, Avery Sahr and Thomas Sargent. There will be a reception following worship in Fellowship Hall. Remember to wear red!

## Celebrating Lou-Ann

---

**Sunday, September 19**

Worship on **Sunday, September 19** will be additionally festive because we will be taking a few moments during worship and after to express our gratitude to Lou-Ann Poirier, our marvelous church administrator for five years who, with her husband Bob, will be retiring. Please send any photos, cards and checks of appreciation made out to South Church with Lou-Ann's name in the memo line to "Celebration Team" in care of South Church by Monday, September 13!

## Bible Presentation

---

**Sunday, September 26**

We believe that fourth graders are at a point in their spiritual development where they can understand and truly appreciate the Bible. On **Sunday, September 26**, we give them their own Bible to use during class and to keep for their own. If your son/daughter is entering fourth grade this fall and is interested in receiving a Bible, please contact **Alison**.

## CROP Walk

---

**Saturday, October  
9**

The 2021 CROP Walk is on **Saturday, October 9**. For the past three years, South Church CROP Walkers have been the top fundraisers in Concord! In 2018 we raised \$2,180; in 2019 we raised \$5,500; and in 2020 we raised \$3,800. Our walkers and supporters continue to do their part in feeding hungry people. Join our team.

- Sign-up to be a "South Church" walker on Saturday, October 9. Our Team Captain Cy Sherman is ready to add your name to the list. Feel free to email [Cy](#) for more information.
- Donate to the Walk! (Go online to Concord NH CROP Hunger Walk; hit "donate" on the top at the far right; and type in Cy's name).

Let's keep South Church as the top fundraiser for years to come and help stamp out hunger!



## Church Ministries

---

### Moment for Mission

The Faith in Action Ministry has chosen the UCC Neighbors in Need fund as our Moment for Mission for the month of September. 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.

---

### Discussion Groups

As you know when Carlos moved on to pastor the Pelham Congregational Church a year ago, that triggered the UCC's "transition process." Simply put, that is the time a church has a real opportunity to explore its future vision, calling and ministry needs. An "Interim Minister," who has had training in guiding a congregation through this transition process, serves temporarily with the church to help the church family look deeply at itself, its work, the community around it and to be prayerfully open to what the Spirit is calling us to do. Rev. Sean Dunker-Bendigo is our South Church Interim Minister.

We need to hear from each member, no matter how long you have been a part of South Church or how involved you are in the church. This is an exciting time of growth and transition for South Church. In the coming weeks, you will have opportunities to share your thoughts and dreams for South Church with each other. Below are listed dates and times for upcoming discussion groups. Further details for directions, time, and sign-up will be on our church website.

#### In-Person Gatherings:

- **Thursday, September 16** at 7p.m. at Peter & Deb Imse's home
- **Sunday, September 19** at 10:30a.m. in Fellowship Hall following worship
- **Tuesday, September 21** at 7p.m. at Leanne Tigert & Emily Geoghegan's home

#### Zoom Gatherings:

- **Thursday, September 23** at 7p.m.
- **Wednesday, September 29** at 7p.m.

---

### Music Ministry

The Memorial Bell choir is happily getting together again after a hiatus since January. We rehearse every **Wednesday** evening in Fellowship Hall from 6:30p.m. to 8p.m., and an occasional Saturday morning. We usually play during worship on the third Sunday of each month and on Christmas Eve. We are always looking for new players, so if you might like to give it a try, email [Carlene](#). No prior music experience is necessary, just a willingness to try a new skill that involves cooperation and coordination, and sense of humor.

---

### Evening Prayer

Gyme Hardy will be leading [Evening Prayer](#) on Monday and Tuesday evenings, starting **Monday, September 13** from 7:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. All are welcome.

---

### Thank you!

On behalf of the Family Promise families, we would like to thank you for your volunteer support during our host week. We served breakfast and dinner each day and provided the family with snacks for the children. Alexandra and Pedro with their four young children were very appreciative for our support as their journey to stability and sustainable housing continues. Our next host week is scheduled for **October 31 to November 7** at Temple Beth Jacob and we look forward to working with you. Again, our sincere thanks, the South Church and Temple Beth Jacob coordinators, Cindy, Dina Meredith, Nancy Jo and Peggy



## Staying Connected

---

### Flock Notes

Join our flock! Sign up for our text announcements and reminders from South Church through Flocknote. This will allow us to communicate with you better. To sign-up text 84576 and type SCUCC.

---

### Daily Devotional

The UCC Daily Devotional is a spiritually deep and refreshing well, to which thousands of readers are drawn each day. The overall vision and voice of the devotions is tended by the *Stillspeaking Writers' Group*. It provides a relevant ministry of inspiring word, giving creative direction for the Daily Devotional, annual Advent/Lenten devotionals, and other resources. To sign-up for the electronic version [click here](#).



## Conference Ministries

---

### Celebration

Join the NH UCC Conference Staff as they bid farewell to Helen McGlashan the Search & Call Assistant on **Wednesday, September 8** from 2p.m. to 5p.m. at the New Hampshire Conference office located at 140 Sheep Davis Road in Pembroke. Many thanks to Helen for her 16 years of service. Light refreshments will be served. If you are interested in baking for Helen's reception, please bake and drop off goodies at South Church on or before Tuesday, September 7.

---

### Horton Center

It's time to register for weekend getaway this Fall on top of Pine Mountain. Check out these upcoming weekends:

- **Family & Friends Weekend** (September 3 to 6): Families of all configurations and friends of all ages, come close out the summer with a trip to the mountain.
- **Confirmation Retreat** (October 1 to 3): Youth (and their leader) from NH Confirmation classes will gather for worship, music, discussion, good food and games.
- **Fall Work Days** (October 8 to 10): It's time to put camp to rest for the winter.

Come for a night to two.

Sign up today, come back to the mountain and turn the world around!

## Star Island Retreats

Star Island is home to all-inclusive programming that focuses on a particular theme or topic such as art, history, sustainability, spirituality, and yoga. Star Island is a place to learn, explore, enjoy the outdoors and connect with friends both old and new. They are pleased to report that they have been open since June and the 2021 season is going well. There are many retreats this Fall, check out the [schedule](#) to see if you can sneak away to this magical island.

## Annual Meeting

The 220th Annual Meeting of the New Hampshire Conference, United Church of Christ will be held on **Saturday, October 16** via Zoom Webinar and YouTube Livestream. This year we will explore the theme *“Building Beloved Community.”* The Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund, who serves on the National Staff of The United Church of Christ as the Minister for Disabilities and Mental Health Justice, and the Rev. Chad Abbott, Conference Minister of the Indiana-Kentucky Conference United Church of Christ, will share the keynote address at this year’s meeting.

As we transition to a post-pandemic world, they will help us understand the impact of having spent time in isolation and the role of faith in rebuilding our beloved community. Drawing on her work with liberation theology, Rev. Dr. Lund will speak to the power of story and testimony in creating resiliency and hope. She will share tools that facilitate bringing about justice and transformation through faithful, loving relationships that build beloved community. Rev. Abbott brings a wealth of experience from his writings and work in contemplative practices. He believes we were created for community and connection and will focus on how deep listening to God and one another is part of the healing and rebuilding.



## In the Community

---

### Scholarship Fund

“Antony” fled his war-torn African home after death threats. In 2018, he sought asylum in the US, but was shackled and jailed for two years. Due to Covid19, he is now confined in a private home with the help of a caring team, but he is still shackled with a painful ankle monitor and unable to leave the home. He expresses his anguish in poetry and artwork. In March 2021, NH photographer Becky Field met Antony, and they started a long-term project to document his life under house detention with her photos and his writings and artwork. The project brings attention to the cruelties of the current asylum process and the compassion of host families.

With cooperation of the Community Church of Durham, Becky and Antony made a booklet with samples of her photographs and his poems and drawings. The booklet is available for a donation of \$25 (plus a requested \$5 if mailed) that goes to the church for Antony's legal fees and other critical expenses. The booklet is available from [Becky Field](#); or you can send cash or a check (to "Community Church of Durham" with "for Antony's booklet" in the memo line) and mailed to Community Church of Durham, P.O. Box 310, Durham, NH 03824; or order [online](#). To learn more about the church's immigration and accompaniment efforts, visit this [website](#). For more about Becky's photos of immigrants, visit this [website](#).

---

### Exhibit

An Exhibit of Photos, Journey Stories & Immigrant Voices from **August 27 to September 30**. *FINDING HOME: Portraits and Memories of Immigrants*, celebrates New Hampshire people who came from other countries.

Since 2012, photographer Becky Field has documented the lives of immigrants. Now, in addition to their portraits, this exhibit shares stories of 40 immigrants about their journeys to find a new home. A QR code with each story provides a clip of the immigrant's voice and rich accent. The stories show the resilience and determination of people to find education, work and freedom, while Becky's photographs show the vitality of cultural diversity in our communities. The exhibit is based on her book of the same name.

This exhibit is supported in part by the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts, in partnership with the University of New Hampshire Library and the Tillotson Center on 14 Carriage Lane in Colebrook, NH.

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

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

[Update Profile](#) | [About Constant Contact](#)

Sent by anyhan@southchurchconcord.org in collaboration  
with



Try email marketing for free today!