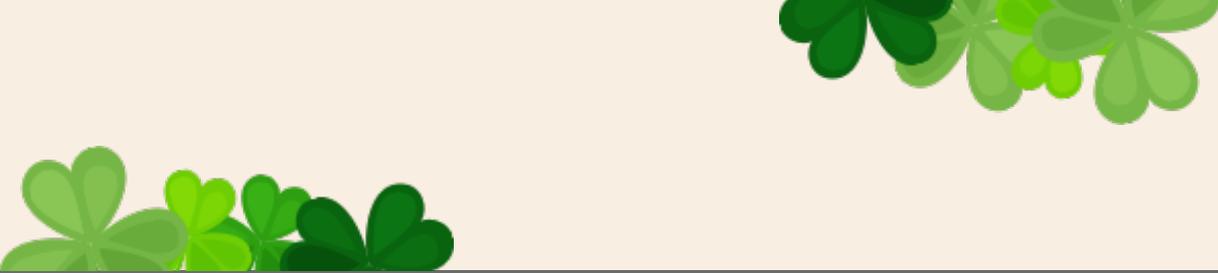




*South Church
United Church of Christ*

e-Lation!



A Hymn For Change

Something is happening in the world. Something good, for a change... Russia's brutal invasion of Ukraine is changing and challenging old systems of rigid connection. The violence is evoking long-dormant humanitarian instincts and we're seeing countries around the world wake up to the need for coming together in the spirit of peace.

Lent has arrived. This beloved and often misunderstood season is a gift God gives to us so that the soil of what is and what has been can nourish that which will be. Change is coming, we just don't yet know what that will look like. As we walk together through this forty-day period of reflection and re-orientation, consider the following words from one of our favorite hymns as a daily invitation to prepare for all the good news God is preparing in you, in us:

*(Refrain) Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth,
from despair to hope, from fear to trust.
Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace;
Let peace fill our hearts, let peace fill our world, let peace fill our universe.*

*Still all the angry cries, still all the angry guns,
Still now your people die, earth's sons and daughters.
Let justice roll, let mercy pour down,
Come and teach us your way of compassion.*

(Refrain)

*So many lonely hearts, so many broken lives,
Longing for love to break into their darkness.
Come, teach us love, come, teach us peace,
Come and teach us your way of compassion.*

(Refrain)

*Let justice ever roll, let mercy fill the earth,
Let us begin to grow into your people.
We can be love, we can bring peace,
We can still be your way of compassion.
(lyrics by Satish Kumar and Marty Haugen)*

May the peace of Christ which passes all understanding be with you.

Jed

Lent 2022 "Living Water"



Devotional Booklet

Full to the Brim is an invitation to be authentically who you are, to counter scarcity and injustice at every turn, to pour out even more grace wherever it is needed. Beginning with Ash Wednesday and continuing through

Easter, this booklet offers commentary, poetry, visual art, and written reflections plus hymns and journaling prompts for Holy Week. It encourages you to walk through these weekly readings at your own pace, following the rhythm that works best for you. The hope is that the art, reflections, and poetry strengthen and stretch you, shaping you into a more faithful disciple. These booklets are available in Fellowship Hall.



Spiritual Journey Cards

The theme of Lent this year is *Living Waters: An Expansive Lent*. Instead of a discipline of subtraction each week we are adding to our Lenten spiritual journey words and spiritual practices from our new Mission, Vision, and

Values statement. We will share the new words and spiritual practice in the worship bulletin weekly. Please join us on this journey of abundance.



Art Exhibit

Crying in the Wilderness: A Flight for Survival. In 2018, “Antony” ran from his war-torn home after attacks and death threats because of his political opinions. To save his family, he fled, seeking asylum in the U.S. only

to be arrested, shackled, and jailed for two years. Due to Covid, he was released and placed under house arrest which requires that he wear an ankle monitor and it severely restricts his movements. In 2021, photographer Becky Field and “Antony” started a project to document life under house detention through her photos and his writings and artwork. The project raises awareness of asylum seekers, the U.S. immigrant system, and host communities. An exhibit of their work will be on display in our Sanctuary during Lent **Wednesday, March 2 through Sunday, April 17** during our office hours or contact **Alison**.



Easter Flowers

We will be celebrating, honoring, and remembering our loved ones this Easter with flowers. If you wish to purchase flowers, please fill out an order form available in the church office and Fellowship Hall or order online. The cost of each plant is \$15. The deadline is **Monday, March 21**. Flowers and names will be printed in our Easter Sunday bulletins. If you have any questions call or e-mail **Kayla**.

Lenten Activities



Extravagant Love

Let's get messy with paper, glue, and scissors on **Sunday, March 13** after worship to create some artwork for the in-patient psychiatric unit at Concord Hospital. The staff and patients really appreciate the love and support we provide with our artwork. The materials will be available in Fellowship Hall for the entire week, so feel free to stop in when the office is open to create some love. Individuals of all ages are encouraged to participate.



Diverse Relationships

Join in on the discussion on Racial Justice. Janet Zeller will be leading an in-person discussion on **Sunday, March 20** at 10:30 a.m. This discussion will focus on systemic racism and white privilege. Prior to participating in the discussion, we strongly encourage you to watch and read in advance these **resources**. **Sign-up** today.



Spark Spiritual Growth

The Lord's Prayer is one prayer many of us have memorized, so let's recreate one of your own this Lenten season on **Sunday, March 27** after worship. Writing tools, paper and writing prompts will be available for you. The materials will be available in Fellowship Hall for the entire week, so feel free to stop in when the office is open to create a prayer. Individuals of all ages are encouraged to participate.



Serve our Neighbors

During the Lenten season it's important to remember those in need. We will work on an outreach project on **Sunday, April 3** after worship. The details are still being worked out, so stay tuned. Individuals of all ages are encouraged to participate.



A Just World

For millennia, humans have told stories. We tell stories to communicate and share our common experience; to express our hopes and fears; and deepest beliefs. We tell stories to bind ties between us and strengthen the web of human connectedness. In times of joy . . . we tell stories. And in times of great pain and strife . . . we need stories.

The *Our Story NH project* seeks to create, share, and collect stories across New Hampshire of life, experience, feelings, hopes and thoughts of life during, before and in anticipation of a post-pandemic reality. There are many ways to tell a story – stories do not have to be written and they do not have to be only words! Stories can be written, audio recordings of your voice; music or artwork – get creative!

Here are some prompts to consider:

- What is one memory that you have of this time during the Pandemic?
- What is one thing you would want future generations to know about this time in New Hampshire?
- Tell us about your experience during the pandemic

Here at South Church, volunteers from the *Our Story NH project* will be at South Church to hear and record your stories on **Sunday, April 10** from 11a.m. to 1p.m. You can also submit at story on-line. Check out their [website](#).

Spiritual Growth



World Day of Prayer

World Day of Prayer is **Friday, March 4**. It is a worldwide ecumenical movement of Christian Women who came together to observe a common day of prayer and action. This is the third year the NHCUCC State Women's Fellowship Board will join other women around the globe. The women call us to worship with the words from Jeremiah 29: 1-14, "*I know the plans I have for you.*" This verse is inspired by the letter that Jeremiah wrote to the exiles in Babylonia. The exiles were in a place of suffering, uncertainly, and opposing views on how to respond. During this worship service,

women come together to hear the stories of women who feel excluded and persecuted in the multi-cultural, multi-diverse, and multi-faith cultures of Wales, England, and Northern Ireland. The service will be available through The Congregational Church of Laconia's **YouTube channel**.

New Members

Interested in learning more about membership at South Congregational Church? Rev. Jed is offering a New Members' class on **Wednesday, March 9** at 5 p.m. To sign-up, contact **Alison** or [register online](#).



Mission Trip



The Senior High Youth Group will be participating in a short mission trip to Boston along with our advisors, Julia, Ryan, and Jed. They group will leave on **Tuesday, April 26** and return on **Thursday, April 28**. The group will be staying at Old South Church in Boston and participate in various worksites throughout the city such as Cradles for Crayons and Pilgrim Trinitarian Congregational Church. They group will also explore the city, travel on the train, view the Holocaust memorial, and possibly take in a show. If your youth are

interested in participating in this year's mission trip, please let **Alison** know by **Sunday, March 13**. All those in high school are welcome.



By The Poet's Light

Every
Second
Monday
7:00 PM

By the Poet's Light

Join us on **Monday, March 21** from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Zoom for a meaningful poetry discussion on the theme of transformation. Bring your beverage of choice and experience the warmth of our gathering! **Join us!**

Nurturing



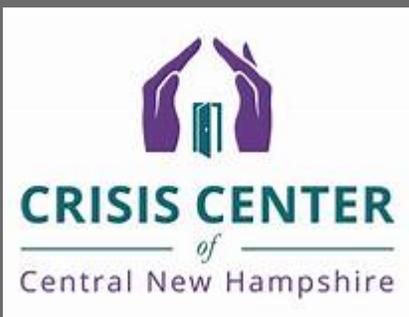
Moment for Mission

The Faith in Action Ministry has chosen to support the **Concord Coalition to End Homelessness (CCEH)** as March's Moment for Mission. South Church has been a longtime *'Pillar of Support'* for CCEH's mission to eliminate chronic homelessness; support and quickly re-house people who have recently become homeless; and build a system that effectively responds to the diverse needs of people experiencing homelessness. Additionally, the CCEH will be hosting the **SouperFest** at White Park on **Saturday, March 26** from 1:30p.m. to 4:30p.m. This event allows you the opportunity for a tasty and easy meal – please check out their **website**. Thank you for your continued support of the **Faith in Action Ministry** and our Concord community.



Collecting Goods

We will be collecting items for The Friends of Forgotten Children. This program operates one of the largest food pantries in the greater Concord area. It stocks a variety of shelf-stable food items, as well as refrigerated and frozen meats and produce. They also carry non-food items that cannot be purchased through the food stamp program. These much-needed items include personal care items, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, and feminine products. Items you would like to donate can be placed in the wooden crates in the Sanctuary or the shopping cart in our care closet in Fellowship Hall.



Gift Card Drive

The Crisis Center of Central NH is collecting donations in the form of Walmart, VISA, gas, and food gift cards. These donations go directly to support a survivor in need. Here at South Church we are collecting donations. They can be dropped off in the office or placed in the offering plate. We will make sure to get them to the Crisis Center. For additional information contact **Debbie** at the Crisis Center.

Blood Donation

The American Red Cross is facing a national blood crisis – its worst blood shortage in over a decade, posing a concerning risk to patient care. Doctors have been forced to make difficult



**American
Red Cross**

decisions about who receives blood transfusions and who will need to wait until more products become available. Blood and platelet donations are critically needed to help prevent further delays in vital medical treatments. Please **schedule** your blood donation today.

What is causing the blood shortage crisis?

• 20% overall blood donation decline since March 2020.

- 62% drop in college and high school blood drives due to the pandemic.
- Ongoing blood drive cancellations due to illness, weather-related closures, and staffing limitations.
- Additional factors like a surge of COVID-19 cases and an active flu season may compound the already bad situation.

Our Greater Community

FINDING HOME



Portraits and Memories of New Hampshire Immigrants
Becky Field, Photographer

Finding Home

Becky Field has a new exhibit at Kimball-Jenkins showing her photography, along with the stories and recordings of New Hampshire immigrants. Becky's work is based on her recent book, *Finding Home: Portraits and Memories of Immigrants*. This is also a double exhibit that includes oil paintings by Jozimar Matimano,

former refugee from Congo and fine art painter. Jozimar's paintings use portraiture and symbolism to express his views of social events. Together the two exhibits illustrate and honor the journeys of new Americans. The exhibit will be on display throughout March.



Walker Lecture Series

The *Artful Noise String Quartet* will perform on **Wednesday, March 16** at 7:30 p.m. They gave the world premiere performance of Kevin Siegfried's string quartet, "*Land of Pure Delight*," at the Canterbury Shaker Museum's

Village Rising Festival in 2014. Although they are all trained in traditional classical repertoire, they enjoy playing in other styles, including Celtic and American fiddle, jazzy show tunes, and contemporary pop. The quartet will perform "*Sounds and Colors*" by Gwyn Gwyneth Walker, "*String Quartet*" by Florence Beatrice Price, and *Opus 96* by Anton Dvorak. All shows are free and located at Concord City Auditorium on 2 Prince Street. For more information about the Walker Lecture Series check out their **website**.



The next e-Lation will arrive on **Thursday, March 17**.
If you wish to add something to our newsletter,
please submit your article by **Monday, March 14** to **Alison**.

Spring Forward! Don't forget we change your clocks on **Saturday, March 12**.

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

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