



South Church
United Church of Christ

e-Lation!

"Gratitude is the understanding that many millions of things come together and live together and mesh together and breathe together in order for us to take even one more breath of air, that the underlying gift of life and incarnation as a living, participating human being is a privilege; that we are miraculously part of something, rather than nothing. Even if that something is temporarily pain or despair, we inhabit a living world, with real faces, real voices, laughter, the color blue, the green of the fields, the freshness of a cold wind, or the tawny hue of a winter landscape."

– David Whyte



Vision & Transition Report

Thank you to all of you who shared your thoughts and assisted in South Church's Transition process. As you know when Carlos moved on to pastor the Pelham

Congregational Church, 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 Interim Minister.

A key part of this transition process is to hear from each person in our congregation. Since July, there have been open discussion groups held in a wide range of locations, included Zoom opportunities and at a range of times. In addition, for the past month, the 5 transition questions have been available on the website, and through South Church text messages gathering more responses. In total 75 people have responded. All those responses were captured. Check out the [summary of responses](#).



Updated Covid Policy

We recognized at the September Council meeting, that *"If the positivity rate should increase to as high as 7%, or if the new case rate shows signs of increasing significantly, we will stop in person gatherings at South*

Church and return to virtual worship and meetings until further notice." As of November 11, that rate reached 7.3%. We have rethought our August benchmark for many reasons. Here is the [updated policy](#).

Church Events



Christmas Poinsettias

Once again we will be celebrating, honoring, and remembering our loved ones this Christmas season with flowers. The deadline has been extended to **Monday, November 22**. If you wish to purchase a poinsettia, please fill out an order form available in the church office and Fellowship Hall or order online. The cost of each plant is \$15. Flowers and names will be displayed on for our Christmas Eve worship services. If you have any questions call or e-mail [Kayla Pingree](#).



Bakeless Bake Sale

The Genesis Circle is a Christian women's fellowship group that provides services to South Church and its community. We work hard to ensure the CAMEL program, the Women's birthday dinner, and educational programs are available to the congregation. Over the years, our annual fundraisers have been the Thanksgiving and Valentine's bake sales.

However, due to the the pandemic and safety concerns, we cannot continue with our tradition again this year. This year, we are hosting a bakeless bake sale. Instead of baking, we are asking for a monetary contribution which will allow us to continue our mission with the hope that we can fill Fellowship Hall with tasty treats in the near future. If you are able, please consider donating to the Genesis Circle. All checks should be payable to Genesis Circle and mailed to the church office.

Thank you for your consideration,
Edie Dimick and Lorraine Fournier



Outdoor Advent-ure

Kick off the Advent season early with other South Church members on **Sunday, November 21** at 1 p.m. for a local hike at the New Hampshire Audubon Center in Concord. For more information, contact [Lorens Jorgensen](#).



A Service of Remembrance

The Lay Ministry Visitors team is holding a Service of Remembrance on **Tuesday, December 7** 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. Afterwards, the Lay Ministry Visitors' team will offer tea, dessert, and time to be together. Please feel welcome!

Advent Wreath Making

We will be making Christmas wreaths using



embroidery hoops or metal wires, traditional greenery and ribbon on **Sunday, November 28** at 3 p.m. These wreaths will add a little flare to your Advent season. To register for this event, check out this [link](#).



Advent Ornament Making

We will be making Advent ornaments on **Sunday, December 5** at 3 p.m. You will be able to decorate your tree with homemade decorations. To register for this event, check out this [link](#).



Advent Card Making

We will be making and writing cards for members of our congregation on Sunday, **December 12 at 3 p.m.** To register for this event, check out this [link](#).



Advent Carol Sing

We will join together for a carol sing. This event maybe in person and virtual on **Sunday, December 19** at 3 p.m. To register for this event, check out this [link](#).

Advent Booklets

Hope for Christmas Past, Present and Future written by Stephenie Hovland, celebrates the eternal gift of hope found in the past, present and future presence of Lord and Savior, Jesus! This booklet of daily Advent prayers focuses on the long ago



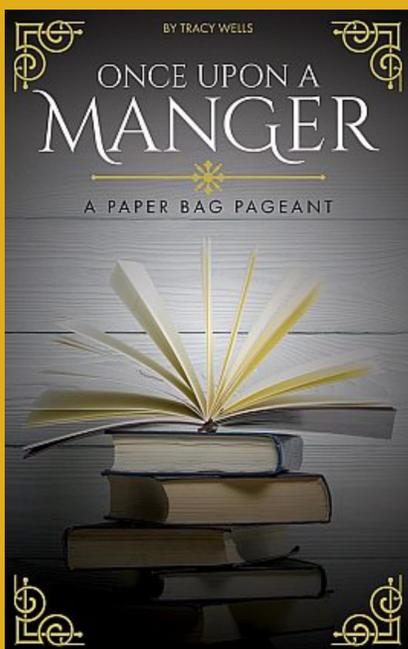
promise of the coming of Christ, the present coming of Christ into our daily lives and the hope of Christ's glorious return and our eternal home. These prayers lift one's spirit throughout the Advent season with a daily reminder of the infinite ways God has, is and will continue to bless us all. These booklets are available in Fellowship Hall.



Advent Booklet for Families

Countdown to Christmas! Each family can create their own Advent centerpiece to count the days until Jesus' birthday. The rhyming devotions in the sticker booklet add to the excitement and anticipation by retelling the biblical story of the prophets, Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, the wise men and the angels. Each Sunday, a flame-shaped sticker is added to one of the four Advent candles, brightening the Christmas

countdown. These booklets are available in Fellowship Hall.



Epiphany Tableau

This year we will be performing *Once Upon a Manger* written by Tracy Wells. We will bring the story of the birth of Jesus to life! This easy-to-stage Christmas performance has a role for everyone, including members of the congregation! Guided by a storyteller, participants get in on the act in this memorable pageant celebrating Jesus' birth.

All children ages four and older are welcome to participate in this performance. Our first rehearsal will be on **Sunday, November 28** from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Youth Space or virtual. The performance will be a part of the worship service on **Sunday,**

January 9 at 10 a.m. If your child is interested in being a part of this production, please e-mail [Alison Nyhan](mailto:Alison.Nyhan).



Amazon Smile

This holiday season, don't 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! Contact the office with questions.

UCC Digital Programming



Upcoming Discussions

What is the Doctrine of Discovery?

Tuesday, November 23 - 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

In their own voices, First Nations Indigenous People will discuss the destructiveness of the

Doctrine of Discovery on their peoples in what is presently known as the Americas and the Caribbean. To register for this event, check out this [link](#).

Let's Talk About Abortion

Tuesday, November 30 - 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Abortion access is an issue of faith! The United Church of Christ has had a strong history of supporting access to safe and healthy abortion since before Roe V. Wade. UCC Clergy have been advocating for the women and people who need abortions for decades!

Join for a conversation with Elaina Ramsey, Ohio Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice; Sandy Sorenson, UCC DC Team Leader; and Rev. Dr. Chris Davies, advocate for abortion access in Ohio. To register for this event, check out this [link](#).

Purple Church

Thursday, December 2 - 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The UCC contains people with a wide spectrum of theological beliefs and political alignment. People who choose to be in a church that holds differences of opinion often do so with a few different strategies of love and conflict management.

In this conversation, we will hear from leaders of Purple Churches, or churches that have members across the theological/social/political lines, about how they show up authentically with each other in the midst of difference. To register for this event, check out this [link](#).



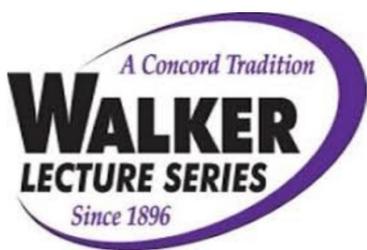
A Million Thanks

Join the *A Million Thanks* organization in kicking off their Veteran's Holiday appreciation writing campaign! This allows us to thank those who have made daily sacrifices on our behalf. The goal is to collect 1,000 letters by the end of November. Simply write a letter of appreciation and drop it off at Crossroads Chiropractic located at 556 Pembroke Street in Pembroke. For more information check out their [website](#).



Thanksgiving Baked Goods

The Crust and Crumb Baking Company is taking orders for Thanksgiving. Everything is hand-made from scratch using local ingredients. Orders must be placed and paid in full by **Friday, November 19**. Here is the [link](#) to ordering.



Walker Series

Brent Winebrenner

Wednesday, December 1

Guatemala, Land of the Maya: Guatemala is a land of amazing natural and cultural diversity that is just beginning to emerge from the shadow of a long civil war. A high-

definition and beautiful travelogue, this film begins by exploring the achievements of the ancient Maya by visiting fabled places like El Mirador, Tikal, and Yaxha. The film examines the historic tension between Mayan traditions and Spanish colonialism, using the religious pageantry of Antigua's Easter Week celebration to provide a cinematic backdrop for the fascinating conversation. An excursion to Lake Atitlan shows Mayan culture where weavers spin cotton by hand and rely on natural dyes and backstrap looms to create world-class textiles. This documentary provides important context for understanding and exploring the fascinating Land of the Maya.

All Walker 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 season schedule, visit their [website](#).



Upcoming Events

Friday, November 19 through Sunday, November 28 – The Bektash Temple will host their annual Fez'tival of Trees with the theme "Welcome Home."

Saturday, November 20 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, November 21 at 5:30 p.m. – New Hampshire Master Chorale concert. Saturday's performance will be held at South Church. Sunday's performance will be held at Plymouth Congregational.

Friday, November 26 – Concord's Christmas Tree Lighting will be at the State House Plaza from 3:30 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Friday, December 3 – Downtown Concord's Midnight Merriment will be held on Main Street.

Saturday, December 4 at 1 p.m. & 6 p.m. and Sunday, December 5 at 1 p.m. - Concord Dance Academy's Holiday Spectacular will be held at Concord City Auditorium.

*The church office will be closed on **Wednesday, November 24** at noon, and all day on **Thursday, November 25** and **Friday, November 26**. We will return Monday refreshed from our Thanksgiving holiday.*



The next e-Lation will arrive on **Thursday, December 2**.

If you wish to add something to our newsletter, please submit your article by **Monday, November 29** to Alison.

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

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