

e-Lation!

South Congregational Church, UCC

The Spirit of Pentecost is alive and well here at South Church!

If you haven't noticed, it's sometimes hard to get a parking space, even in the middle of the week! Committees are meeting, staff is working, volunteers are mulching and working in the office. There is a lot going on as we prepare for a new era when Pastor Tanya arrives.

Pentecost is the celebration of the disciples being filled with the Spirit and commissioned to go forth and spread the Gospel. We, too, are filled and commissioned. We will celebrate this Sunday with the youth and children leading us in worship followed by the annual meeting of the congregation.

It continues to be a privilege for me to serve you as the bridge pastor and witness so much energy and hope for our future ministries together- Radical Hope and Extravagant Love still guide, inform, and energize us as we form and re-form our common life together. As Ross Gay writes in his book, *Inciting Joy*, "Joy... is not only entangled with pain, or suffering, or sorrow, but is also what emerges from how we care for each other through these things"

Yes friends, we have been through some pain, and our joy is present—emerging out of our life together.

Leanne

South Church Annual Meeting This Sunday!

CALL TO THE ANNUAL MEETING

The South Church Annual Meeting will be held on
Sunday, May 19 at 10am.

The meeting will be both in person and via Zoom.
We will be voting on next year's budget and updated Church Bylaws. Please plan to attend!

Bylaws: Revised 2023

'23-'24 Annual Report

Bylaws Revisions: Rationale

Annual Meeting Zoom
Link

A Message from Jed

Dear South Church friends:

The sendoff you provided for us was wonderful beyond words!! I'm still processing all of the heartfelt sentiments so many of you have offered.

Sunday's worship was extraordinary, made even more powerful by the laying on of hands, and the inclusion of For the Beauty of Thy Peace. I'd like to thank Abby for the inspiration of commissioning the musical composition that sets the words of Psalm 139 to an arrangement of my favorite hymn tune, Repton.

Thanks to composer Nicholas White, cellist Harel Gietheim, Hannah Murray, and all the musicians and singers for the gift of that incredible composition.



Dave, Carlene and everyone involved with planning: thank you! Thank you for all the letters and cards that were included in Toni's beautiful farewell book, as well as all those sent separately. Thank you for the citation from the House of Representatives, Cy. Thank you for your rendition of "It's Been a Quiet Week in East Concord," Marty. Thank you, Sue, Abby, and Choir for the wonderful rendition of those 10 hymns. Becky, thanks for the amazing slide show.

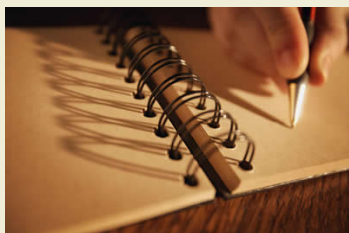
I'm additionally grateful to all of you for the extraordinary Melissa Miller painting, which we will put on our living room wall (I only wish I had thought to unwrap it and show it to you all), and equally thankful for your extremely generous cash gift. Thank you to all who helped prepare the receptions both nights.

Thank you, of course, to all the staff for your hard work. Please forgive me if I have inadvertently left anyone out!

You have given me, and us, all the love, and all the memories we could ever ask for! Our hearts are overflowing!

Gratefully yours,

Jed



Bylaws Review and Revisions

The South Church Bylaws are in the process of being reviewed and revised. Please view the updated Bylaws, along with the rationale for changes above. These Bylaws will be voted on during our Annual Meeting on **May 19, 2024**. Please contact the office if you have questions or comments.



Youth Sunday

Join us for worship this **Sunday, May 19!** Service will be an intergenerational worship led by the Youth of South Church.



Rev. Dr. Tigert Away

Leanne will be out of office from **May 20 until May 23**. Rev. Dr. Billy Brown will be available for pastoral care during this time. Please contact him if needed at 603-731-4277.

Garden Update

*"The kiss of the sun for pardon,
The song of the birds for mirth.
One is nearer God's heart in a garden
Than anywhere else on earth."*



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.

Around the NH UCC



WE ARE FAMILY LISTENING TOUR



Rev. Dr. Velda Love
Minister for Racial Justice



Dr. Sharon Fennema
Join the Movement Curator

Join members of the UCC National Ministries staff in conversation about the future of flourishing you imagine for the whole human family and how we get there together!

Where: First Congregational Church
1548 Hopkinton Rd, Hopkinton, NH

When: May 19, 2024 at 3:00 PM



We want to hear from you!



- What does a future of flourishing for the whole human family look like?*
- How are you and your church building toward that future?*
- What gifts and skills are you bringing to that work and where do you want to grow?*
- What lineages and histories live in your bones?*
- What stories do you have to share to encourage and challenge others on this journey?*

These are just some of the conversations that will be had as part of the UCC National Ministries Racial Justice and Join the Movement Listening Tour! For the next year, Rev. Dr. Velda Love and Dr. Sharon Fennema are traveling across the country to join in dialogue with UCC communities of every shape and size to hear more of our denomination's story of love in action. We're excited that New Hampshire is their first stop! Through story-sharing and discussion, we will learn more about how to work together as equally valued members of the human family to transform inequity and injustice in our world and foster flourishing lives for all. As beloved members of the Body of Christ, we hope you'll join this circle of discovery and sharing to remember and believe WE ARE FAMILY!

Join the conversation! Fill out this pre-event survey! It will take you less than 5 minutes and will go a long way in helping shape our church's future ministry toward the flourishing of the whole human family. Thank you for lifting your voice and sharing your experiences!

May 19, 2024 - 3 PM
First Congregational Church - Hopkinton, NH
1548 Hopkinton Rd, Hopkinton, NH 03229

ACTION: Show Solidarity for our LGBTQ+ Young People

On **Thursday, May 16**, the NH Senate is voting on the 5 remaining anti-LGBTQ+ bills - and our queer and transgender young people need us to show support for them at the State House. We want to have a strong showing of clergy in visible collars and stoles present outside of the NH Senate Chambers in support of queer and trans kids, as the senators walk in for their session day. This is a ministry of presence, not a press conference or a rally.

Please plan on joining us May 16 at 9am.

Our young people - as well as their families and friends - need us now, more than ever.



Nominations Sought for Environmental Justice Awards

For the past three years, the Environmental Justice Mission Group has presented Environmental Justice Awards at the Conference Annual Meeting, celebrating climate justice and earth stewardship throughout the state. Nominees and winners do not need to be members of UCC congregations, underscoring the critical collaborative effort needed to face the climate crisis, uniting faith communities,

school and college efforts, and community groups. We seek nominees who have distinguished themselves in Earth Care, Education, Advocacy, and/or Activism. Please contact Mission Group Chair Rob Grabill with nominations, questions or comments at:

coachgrabill@gmail.com

Horton Center Camps for Elementary Campers		REMINDERS
Week 1 (June 23-26) "Getting Started"	Pieceful Quilting Retreat September 6-8 Email Tivvi if you're interested in joining us for a weekend of crafting on the mountain!	
Week 2 (June 30-July 6) "Camp M.O.R.E."	Wilderness First Aid at HC June 8-9 www.hortoncenter.org/wfa	
Week 3 (July 7-13) "New Things"	Sticker Design Contest Submit your "On the Loose" themed sticker designs to TPare@nhcucc.org by 5/24	
Week 4 (July 14-20) "Wacky Water World"		
Week 5 (July 14-20) "Hogwarts on the Mt."		
End of Summer Half-Week Sessions		
July 28-30 "Grandparents & Grandchildren"		
August 7-10 "HC Remix"		

Horton Center 2024!

Do you know a camper who is entering 6th, 7th, or 8th grade in the fall? Do they love spending time outside, meeting new friends, and trying new fun things? Give them the incredible gift of a week at Horton Center! All summer long we have awesome camps for our middle school-aged campers. [Check out the whole camp schedule HERE.](#)

Don't forget! We have lots of scholarship support we are excited to share. Reach out to Tivvi (TPare@nhcucc.org) for more information.

OPENING WORK WEEKEND is May 17-19! [Read more HERE!](#) All help is greatly appreciated!

WILDERNESS FIRST AID at Horton Center (June 8-9) is still open for registration. Sign up today [HERE!](#)

We will see you on the mountain soon!



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