e-lation!

SOUTH CHURCH

United Church of Christ

A Message from Rev. Jed

Martin Luther King, Jr., relied on the metaphor of water to convey God's desire for peace and justice. He often cited Amos: *"Take away the noise of your songs; I won't listen to the melody of your harps. But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream."* (Amos 5: 21-24 (CEB))

Those words provide a visual reminder that although history may seem to be moving us away from justice, wherever there are people whose lives are committed to seeking it, it is like rushing water. Just as a drop of water that melts at the top of the mountain will never stop until it joins the waters of the great seas and oceans, God's desire for justice is like the water cycle: it can be thwarted, blocked, and corralled, but ultimately never stopped until God's tide rises everywhere, lifting all the poor, the forgotten, and all who have suffered.

This Lent, our worship series is based on Marcia McFee's work, which includes several musical compositions by Mark A. Miller. *"Roll Down, Justice,"* gives those of us weary of the covid pandemic a baptismal reminder to get back in the game. *"Make me an instrument of your peace," "I dream of a*

church," "communities of forgiveness," "God has work for us to do," "the day is coming" and *"traveling companions"* are the themes we will explore. Recalling the waters of our own baptism, we will offer an opportunity for everyone to come forward each Sunday and tie a blue strip to an ever-growing waterfall, a symbol of the living water that Christ is.

If you have not ventured back to church yet, come back. Come back to the community that you love and loves you. It does not matter if it has been three years: South Church is the same loving, moving, daring church it has always been and will always be. The baptismal waters await!

Grace and power, Jed

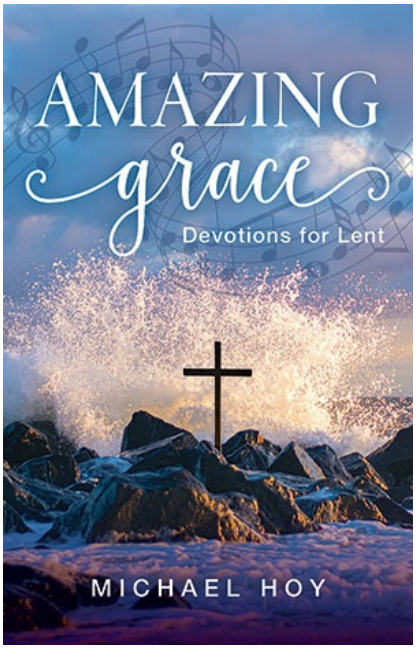
Lent 2023

Ash Wednesday

The season of Lent is almost here. This year we will have three opportunities to receive the mark of the ashes this **Ash Wednesday, February 22**.

- **Morning Prayer**: Morning prayer will be held in person in the chapel at 7:30 a.m.
- **Ashes to Go**: We will be offering Ashes to Go from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in person.
- **Labyrinth**: The labyrinth will be available from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- **Worship**: An intergenerational **Sanctuary worship service** will be held in person and on Zoom at 7 p.m.

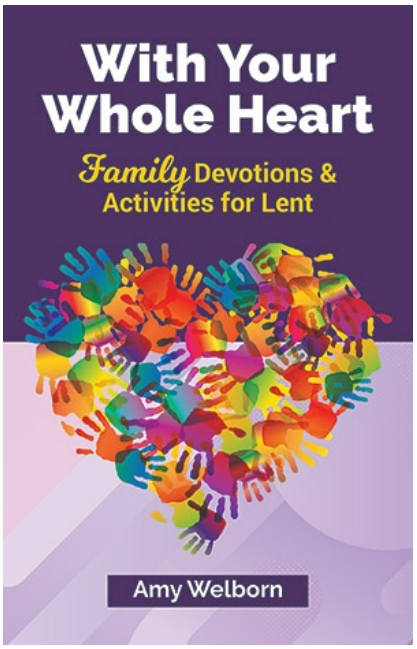
Lenten Devotional



Amazing Grace is written by Michael Hoy in honor of the 250th anniversary of the writing of *Amazing Grace.* This Lenten devotional ties the words of the beloved song (and the history surrounding it) to our lives today and to the lives of those in the Bible who experienced the amazing grace of God revealed most profoundly in the salvation of Jesus.

Booklets and bookmarks are available in Fellowship Hall. The *Amazing Grace* booklet is currently on back order and we hope to get them soon.

Lenten Family Devotional



With your Whole Heart written by Amy Welborn invites us to return to the Lord with our whole heart. This daily devotional is designed for families to put their faith into practice, by practicing good spiritual habits. This booklet encourages families to grow together during the season of Lent. Welborn suggests six areas of focus for helping family members develop stronger Christian habits one for each week. Habits of self-examination, prayer, fasting, charitable giving, gratitude and sacrificial love are discussed and prayed about with simple style.

Booklets are available in Fellowship Hall.

Lenten Plastic Fast

With Ash Wednesday right around the corner, the Environmental Justice Mission Group asks you to consider giving up single use plastics this Lenten season. Please take the time to read more about the environmental impact of these plastics and why it is important to act! Click here for the article.

Our Church Community

Breaking Bread

The Faith Formation Ministry will be hosting another Breaking Bread event on **Saturday, February 25** at 5:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. While the soup and beverages will be provided, we ask everyone to bring bread, salad, or dessert to share. Interested in participating in this event? Join us for Fellowship and rich conversations. Sign-up online or in Fellowship Hall. This will allow us to prepare accordingly. If you have any questions, contact Cynthia Hogan or Zib Corell.

Granite State Candy

This Easter you can order chocolate bunnies, foiled eggs, bunny pops and many classics treats as part of our fundraising efforts. We will be taking orders in Fellowship Hall after worship on **Sunday, March 5, 12 and 19**. Items purchased will be available for pick-up on **Sunday, April 2**. All proceeds will benefit our church's mission. If you are interested sharing this fundraiser with your friends, family, and co-workers contact Kayla for an order form.

New Members Classes

Interested in learning more about membership at South Church? Rev. Jed is offering New Member's classes on **Sunday, March 12** after the 10 a.m. worship service and on **Thursday, March 16** at 5 p.m. You only need to participate in one class. New Members will be received on **Sunday, March 26**. To sign-up, contact Alison.

Pink Flamingos

A flock of pink flamingos will be arriving in Concord this March. It is rumored that they will be making personal appearances to the yards of each member of this Congregation. Starting on **March 12 and continuing through April 1**, the Youth Ministries will begin its *Pink Flamingo Fundraiser*.

If our flamingos end up in your front yard, you can choose to have another family in the church "flamingoed" for a donation of $30. We will replant the flock in the yard of your choice. However, if you do not wish to EVER see pink flamingos on your lawn, we suggest you buy *"Bird Insurance"* for $20. This will prevent the birds from ever stepping foot on your yard. Insurance can be purchased in the church office or on Sunday mornings before **Sunday, March 5**. All proceeds will benefit our Youth Ministries and their mission trip to New Orleans.

Volunteer Opportunities

Childcare

The Faith Formation Ministry would like to offer childcare during the 10 a.m. worship service for our young families and their children from infants to three years old. We are looking for volunteers to help supervise the children on Sunday mornings. We believe it is the church's responsibility to work with families to provide an inviting and safe atmosphere that encourages their spiritual needs. If you are interested in volunteering, here is the link to the on-line signup sheet.

Family Promise

We will be hosting families the week of **February 19 to February 26** here at South Church. We will need assistance from you to make this happen and be a meaningful experience for the families in our care. Opportunities include preparing dinner, serving dinner or breakfast, and visiting with the families, as well as

staying overnight. For more information contact our coordinators. To sign-up to volunteer click here.

NH Conference

Installation

Come celebrate the installation of Rev. Sara Marean as the new Associate Conference Minister of the NH Conference on **Saturday, February 25** at 2:30 p.m. at Pembroke Academy (209 Academy Road in Pembroke). Doors open at 2 p.m. Clergy are invited to robe and wear red stoles. Everyone is invited to wear red in the spirit of celebration! All are welcome.

Two Nights/Two Films

Palestine Education Network presents, *Two Nights/Two Films* at the

Red River Theater. These films show the challenges of Palestinians living under occupation and in exile. Followed by discussion.

- *Of Land and Bread* will be showing on **Tuesday, February 28** at 7 p.m. A series of vignettes on everyday Palestine life under Israeli occupation. Video captured by Palestinians that expose the relentless abuse committed by illegal settlers and the Israeli army. Admission is $7.

- *The Tower* will be showing on **Wednesday, March 1** at 7 p.m. A young girl living in a refugee camp learns about her family's history through stories told by three previous generation of refugees. Admission is free.

These events are co-sponsored by NH Peace Action, Seacoast Peach Response, NHUCC Peace and Justice Advocates. Palestine Education Network is a project of NH Peace Action. Click here for more information.

World Day of Prayer

Women, men, and children in more than 170 countries and regions will celebrate World Day of Prayer on **Friday, March 3**. The women of Taiwan call us to worship with the words *"I Have Heard About Your Faith."* The program is based on Ephesians 1:15-19, the letter sent to a faith community to express gratitude. Paul gave thanks to God for the Ephesians living out their love and faith and prayed that they could see these three truths: the hope to which God has called the disciples, the riches of God's glorious inheritance among the saints, and the immeasurable greatness of God's power.

Invite your friends, family, and communities of faith to join the women of Taiwan in prayer and song, supporting ecumenical efforts towards justice, peace, and healing. The offering helps meet the needs of families in Taiwan and around the world who are victims of many forms of poverty, violence, and injustice.

World Day of Prayer is a worldwide ecumenical movement of Christian Women of many traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer. WDP was founded in the idea that prayer and action are

inseparable in the service of God's kingdom. Each year a different country's committee serves as the writers of the WDP worship service. And each year, we are called to action in response to the concerns raised by the writer country.

This years' service will be held at the NH Conference Office located at 140 Sheep Davis Road in Pembroke. There will be light refreshments and fellowship beginning at 11 a.m. followed by the service at 12 noon.

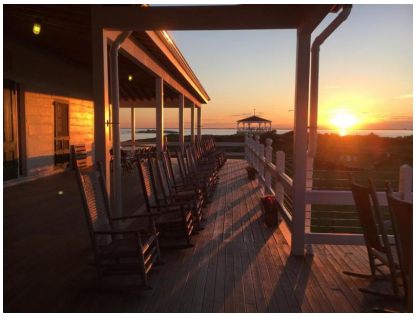
Quilt Ministry

The New Hampshire Sacred Ally Quilts is reaching a national audience. The Sacred Ally Quilts created by members of our Conference have found wide impact as they make their way around the United States. Click here for the article.

Horton Center

Warm up at Horton Center this Summer . . . of course the temperature will be warm, but also the community of accepting, caring Campers, Counselors, Deans and Summer Staff will be as well! Make sure your favorite camper gets to have a great week (or two) of fun, faith, and friendship this year up on Pine Mountain. They will be glad you did! To find out more and register check out the website.

Star Island



Come to beautiful Star Island in the Isles of Shoals off Portsmouth to rest, relax, rejuvenate during one or more of many offered conferences! Here is a sample of the many offered this Spring, Summer, and Fall:

- Star Gathering 1 Family **July 30 to August 6**: *To Be Loved We Must Be Known*
- Star Gathering 1 Youth **July 30 to August 6**: *Relationships, Self-Acceptance, Acceptance of Others, and Ways to Show Our Love*
- Star Gathering 2 Family **August 6 to 13**: *Joy on the Rocks: Resilience, Resistance and Beauty on Star Island and In Our Lives*
- Star Gathering Family Weekend **September 2 to 5**: *Finding Your Authentic Voice*

Registration is now open! Check the website, for information on conference programs, costs, transportation. Contact Martha Burnham for questions or more information.

In the Community

The 39 Steps

The Community Players of Concord present the production of *The 39 Steps*. This Monty Python-like spoof follows Richard Hannay, a bored Canadian living in London, who meets a mysterious woman claiming to be a spy. After inviting herself to his flat, she alludes to her mission to thwart a

shadowy conspiracy to steal vital British military secrets and warns that she is being pursued by assassins' intent on stopping her. She mutters something about "the 39 steps" but soon ends up dead with a knife in her back. Our unwitting hero goes on the run to avoid being framed for murder and is chased across Europe by both the police and the murderous enemy, defying death through one seemingly impossible scrape after another.

Performances are at the Concord City Auditorium. The production of *The 39 Steps*, originally scheduled for weekend **of February 17 to 19** has been POSTPONED due to illness within the company to the following weekend **February 24 and 26**. For more information of contact David Murdo.

The next e-Lation! will arrive on Thursday, March 2.
If you wish to add something to our newsletter,
please submit your article by Friday, February 24 to **Alison**.

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