

E-10

October 2023

Words from our Minister

The Stewardship team has chosen this lovely image for this year’s campaign. We were looking for an image that brought to mind God’s abundance and our part in making the human flourishing that God wants for us come into being.



Paul writes: “Neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything but only God who gives the growth. Still the one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose...” (1 Cor 3:7-8)

My watering day is Friday. That is when most houseplants and potted plants get a good drink. When the outside plants are subject to dry spells or hot weather, I try to get out there twice a week. My succulents and the orchids I have inherited from my mother-in-law get watered first Friday of the month and sometimes third as well.

There is a habit to human watering. Its a combination of the discipline of a schedule and the attention one pays to the plants under our care. We need to see them.

So it is with our ministries in our community. We do something regularly - Bon Appetit third Tuesdays, Grace Street Ministries in the fall. And we pay attention to what is needed. Our partners, such as Community Outreach Services, and Habitat. We must make our partnerships consistent, and we must see the needs to respond to them.

Many spiritual practices employ this same blend of habit and attention. On one hand we might make a habit of prayer every morning. On the other hand, we might find ourselves spiritually frayed and in need of particular prayer. On one hand make a habit of giving to the church, on the other we might attend to the particular needs of the church at any given moment.

Our watering can is an invitation for us all. Its an invitation for you to feel the love that God is pouring out on you, the ways in which God’s provisioning has supplied your life. It’s also an invitation for us to pay attention to what growth we seek in our own lives. What might we water and nurture in growth producing ways? And its also an invitation for us to partner in nourishing the work of the church. We can pour some of our resources so that the ministries of the church can grow. Here is hoping you will enjoy the refreshments of God’s blessings of growth.

Peace, Susan

Our Mission is to be an inclusive community of faith that preaches the word of God, teaches the love of Jesus Christ and reaches out to all through the Holy Spirit.

An Open and Affirming Congregation

Inside this issue:

Words from Rev. Susan

Committee News

What, Where, When

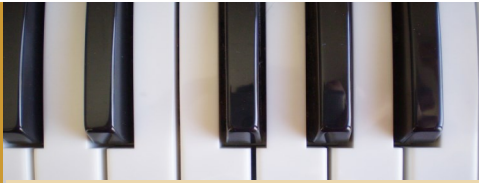
Sunday Worship

10:30am in-person and online at:

www.southchurchucc.org

Life Journeys

Baptisms	July 9	Lillian Jane Skowera
Death	August 4	Henry Benson “Ben” Pickering



Plato is reported as saying “Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind and flight to the imagination”. September is the beginning of a new choir season and a great time to join the Chancel Choir. Our first rehearsal is on Thursday evening September 7th at 7:15pm. If you are interested in singing, please contact me by calling the church office.

News from the Organ Bench

The new season will open up with a rousing arrangement by J. S. Bach of the hymn “*Now Thank We All Our God*”. Our **Chime Choir** will perform for the first time in the new season on Sunday, September 24th. They will perform again on Sunday Oct 29th.

Martin Luther’s Reformation is traditionally celebrated at the end of October. In recognition, I will play an exciting organ arrangement of his hymn tune “*A Might Fortress Is Our God*” on Sunday, October 22nd.

Looking ahead, you won’t want to miss the **Chime Choir’s November 12th Sunday afternoon concert at 3:00pm**, in the sanctuary. Performed to an audience of about one hundred, last year’s concert was a roaring success. It included many show tunes and fun filled dramatic surprises. This year’s concert will include even more popular selections. The concert is open to the public, and admission is free.

Blessings,
David



Scholarship Committee

The Scholarship Committee of Susan Cressey, Martha Hussey and Jennifer Merry awarded a total of \$7,350 to the applicants this year, including 2 Confirmation Scholarships of \$1,000 each. The Confirmation Scholarship calls for a tithe or 10% donation to a non-profit program of the student’s choice.

Kiara Davis, *Clark University*, Worcester, MA, area of study Philosophy and Psychology -
Howes Education Fund

Jillian Lapoint, *Lipscomb University*, Nashville, TN , area of study Family Science -
Erik Fletcher Scholarship

Eliza Mason, *Hofstra University*, Hempstead, NY, area of study film Study/Production -
Katharine Bassett and Carolyn Walker Scholarship

Graham McLaughlin, *University of Maine Orono*, area of study Chemistry/Earth Science -
Isobel Brennon Scholarship

John Ogden, *Plymouth State University*, Plymouth, NH, area of study Marketing/Digital Media -
Erik Fletcher Scholarship and South Church/Ficker Fund

Hannah Richelieu, *Graduate School – Yale School of Medicine Physician Associate Program*,
New Haven, CT to become Physician Associate interest in family medicine and cardiology -
Katharine Bassett Scholarship, Robert H. McConnell Scholarship, South Church/Ficker Fund

Eli Grabowski, *University of New Hampshire*, Durham, NH, 2022 Henry M. Harper, Jr.
Confirmation Scholarship Tithe to Crohn’s and Colitis Foundation

Emma Hussey, *Colby College*, Waterville, ME, area of study Molecular & Cellular Biology,
Genetics - 2022 Henry M. Harper, Jr. Confirmation Scholarship, Tithe to Smile Train

Outreach

This spring three mission groups were highlighted during the worship service on three Sunday mornings. Marie Willson Lago spoke on **Mitigating Gun Violence**. Speaking on Red Flag Laws for gun safety, she provided information for our representatives if we want to contact them about impending gun legislation. Cornelia/Cookie Kittredge gave a presentation on **Community Outreach Services (COS)**. Based in Kennebunk, this organization provides various services for our neighbors in Kennebunk, Kennebunkport and Arundel, including a food pantry, fuel cards, emergency funds etc. In the spring months church members generously donated a plethora of paper goods. Stay tuned for the next items which will be needed. Finally, Sandy Nichols spoke about **BEADS for Education and Tembea Academy**, the girls' school in Kenya founded and run by Megan Grassi's aunt. We have been supporting the school since 2018 by funding one student a year at \$1,600 and making sure that Grace, who has two more years as an engineering student, will finish her college degree. Besides academics and extra curricular activities, the school also teaches such skills as building solar ovens which the students and faculty then teach to their families and residents of their villages.

There are continuing opportunities for volunteering and making donations. Jim Cortright of **Bon Appetit** spoke to us about the program in Biddeford which serves about 100 meals every evening Monday through Friday. South Church is scheduled for the third Tuesday of each month. Sign up is available on the South Church website, however one can volunteer at any time. **Hope Acts Organization** is looking for people to assist immigrants and asylum seekers to help with paper work etc. Contact Peter Sentner or go to hopeacts.org. **Habitat for Humanity** is also one of the programs we support and for which there are volunteer opportunities.

The Outreach Committee continues to monetarily support such programs as **Good Shepherd Food Bank**, **CS3 (Community strong, Character Strong, Children Strong)** among others. Individual donations are always welcome as well.

We are looking forward to an active autumn and year ahead!

South Church Team for Ellie once again participated in (16th annual) the Caring Unlimited Community 5K (formerly known as Nicole's Run/Ellie's Walk) held at Mother's Beach on July 16, 2023. The robust team of 20(24 signed up) came out on a damp Sunday morning in support of the Troost/Wilson and Jennes families and Caring Unlimited, the local organization dedicated to working to end domestic violence in York County. Karen Wilson of South Church tragically lost her sister, Ellie Troost Jennes, on July 17, 1995 due to domestic violence. We once again had the largest team, with 24 members, 7 of which were church members and their families (Karen and Roy Wilson, her daughter Hannah Bragdon, Jim and Patti Berger with one of their daughters, Bethany, and Denise Macaronas). As in previous years, we once again raised the most money (and the most to date!) at \$4,380.57 (which includes \$600 generated in race entry fees and \$800 generously pledged by our own Outreach Committee).



Special gratitude for our anonymous and incredibly generous donor from South Church who once again **DOUBLED** the funds raised!

Deepest thanks to all at South Church who contributed, participated and in any way helped to make this a successful event!



Karen Wilson is excited to hear their team is the highest fundraising team again this year!
Go team South Church!

What: Fall Clean Up

When: Saturday, September 9, 9:00-12 noon(snacks 8:30am)

Where: Community House and Church

General cleaning at the Community House (upstairs) and the church, including rug cleaning of the sanctuary on Sunday, the 10th after worship. There are also some repair and maintenance projects to do at both buildings.



What: Taize Prayer and Chant Services

When: Each first Monday of the month, 5:30 to 6:00 pm

Where: Community House Parlor

This service is one of quiet prayer and chants that are easy to learn and are repeated in the spirit of meditation. You are welcome to join us at any time.

What: Bible and Book Study

When: resumes on Sept 21, 3:30-4:30

Where: We meet by Zoom for one hour on most Thursdays

We will be reading Henri Nouwen's book "The Way of the Heart." If you are interested in joining us, and would like Susan to order a book for you, please email her at pastor@southchurchucc.org



What: An Information Session on the church's finances

When: Sunday, September 24, 11:45 am (after worship service)

Where: Church sanctuary

The Trustees and Central Board will present We also invite ideas/recommendations for inclusion in the 2024 annual budget.

What: Better Friends New Members Class

When: Sunday, Oct 15, 11:45 am to 12:45 pm

Where: Community House Parlor

For those who are interested in being more engaged in the church, understanding what it means to be part of the United Church of Christ, getting a little more information about church governance, offerings and how to get involved and how to join others in supporting our Christian witness near and far. . Some who attend may wish to join. Email pastor@southchurchucc.org for more information or to let us know you plan to attend.



Renewed By Hope: Our grant funded program to create a theologically informed art installation is in creation.

We have an:

Art team working on inviting artists to apply (Please see the Call to Artist or visit our website).

The Frame Team will build the structure that will be in front of the church from mid Lent through mid Easter.

We are forming an Events team and a Worship Team.

The Events Team will design, host (with volunteer assistance) events such as an opening night or an educational program.

The Worship Team will help to imaging how the installation or its themes might be used in our worship or public worship. Please let Rev. Susan know if you are interested in either of these.

South Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
PO Box 414
Kennebunkport, ME 04046
Phone: 207/967-2793
Fax: 207/967-5672
www.southchurchucc.org

The deadline for submitting
newsletter articles is the 15th
of each month by emailing to:
sarah@southchurchucc.org.

Have you checked out ...

Breeze? for the calendar, for an address, for a directory. To make a Contribution. <https://southckport.breezechms.com/>

Sign up Genius? Sunday flower signups, Bon Appetit, Church functions?

Our website? www.southchurchucc.org

The datahub? <https://sites.google.com/view/hubscc/home>



Testing the Doorbells



Please try our doorbell for the front and back doors. Sarah and Susan are getting use to the system, so even if you have a key, or the door is unlocked, please try our doorbell. Push the doorbell icon to ring us, we should then be able to talk with you and open the door remotely. Please be patient with us - we too are getting use to the new system.