South Church is a covenanting member of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations and is an accredited Welcoming Congregation and Green Sanctuary. Unitarian Universalism is a liberal religion with Jewish-Christian roots. It has no creed. It affirms the worth of human beings, advocates freedom of belief and the search for advancing truth, and tries to provide a warm, open, supportive community for people who believe that ethical living is the supreme witness of religion. We welcome bisexual, gay, lesbian, and transgender people. There are seven principles which Unitarian Universalism congregations affirm and promote:

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person
- Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large
- The goal of the world community with peace, liberty and justice for all
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part

We are grateful for the religious pluralism which enriched and ennobles our faith; we are inspired to deepen our understanding and expand our vision.

**SOUTH CHURCH**

**A Unitarian Universalist Congregation**

**Sunday Services:** 10am on State Street

**Live-Stream Services:** 10am on our YouTube Channel

**Office Hours:** 9am-2pm Tuesday-Friday

**WiFi Network:** SouthChurchPublic

**WiFi Password:** SundayMorning

**Website:** [www.southchurch-uu.org](http://www.southchurch-uu.org)

**Email:** info@southchurch-uu.org

**Phone:** 603-436-4762

**Board of Trustees Email:** Board@southchurch-uu.org

**The Board meets on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7pm. All are welcome.**

- Rev. Ellen Quaadgras – Minister
- Kirsten Hunter – Director of Lifespan Ministries
- Jen Del Deo – Religious Educator
- Jonny Peiffer – Director of Music Ministry
- Jennifer Leyden – Congregational Admin
- Kristine Sawyer – Finance Director
- Susan Adams – Accompanist
- Sean Kramer – Attendant
- Alice Scease - Tech

December 11, 2022
ARE YOU NEW TO SOUTH CHURCH?
Are you a first-time visitor? Would you like to get more information about this congregation? Fill out the green card in the pews with your contact info, give it to the morning usher, and we’ll take care of the rest! Welcome!

HOLIDAY DECORATING FUND
When you donate to the Holiday Decorating Fund during the month of December, your family members or loved ones are honored by listing your name and theirs in the Christmas Eve Order of Service. Your contributions cover the cost of decorations both inside and out. Donations will be gratefully accepted during Social Hour after Worship, or on the South Church website. If you donate online, be sure to reach out to Meghan Harris (meghanharris@gmail.com) or Sara Schoman (sara@videotapestry.com) with your memorial listing!

AGING WITH GRACE - DEC 13
Aging with Grace will meet on Tuesday, December 13 at 10:30am at South Church. This month, you may also join on Zoom with the Meeting ID 853 5343 6378. All are welcome to attend either in person or online!

MEN'S BREAKFAST - DEC 14
The Men's Breakfast Group meets on the second Wednesday morning of every month at 8am at Cafe Espresso. Our next breakfast is Wednesday, December 14. A reminder email is sent to the group every month. For more information or to join the mailing list, contact Ken Schoman at ayuh.ken@gmail.com.

DECEMBER BOOK DISCUSSION – DEC 14
The South Church Spiritual Book Group is hosting a discussion of "When We Cease to Understand the World" by Benjamin Labatut on Wednesday, December 14 at 7pm. All are welcome. Please contact southchurchbookgroup@gmail.com for the zoom link.

WINTER SOLSTICE VEPSERS – DEC 15
Join us in welcoming back the light on Thursday evening, December 15 at 7pm. Enjoy readings and reflections, frame drumming, and a dance you watch or join from your pew. Please note, in order for this service to be fully-inclusive, ALL in attendance are required to wear a mask. For more info, contact Anne Deminoff at the_dem@comcast.net.

RE Program 2022-2023
The Nursery (unstaffed) is open for you and your children to have a quiet, private place during Worship. Please remain with your children at all times.

Children and youth are invited to join RE classes downstairs after the Time for All Ages part of Worship.

Alternatively, children are always welcome to remain in Worship.

For more information on our Religious Education program, email our Religious Education Coordinator, Jen Del Deo, at jendeldeo@southchurch-uu.org.

ONGOING GROUPS
Aging with Grace meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 10:30am in the Carson Parlor. Contact Ingrid at inkyjapan@yahoo.com for more information.

Chant From Different Traditions will meet on the first Sunday at 9am on the balcony. Contact Cathy Okhuysen at cathomusic@gmail.com for more information.

The Shawl Ministry meets on the 3rd Sunday at 11:10am in the Emerson Room. For more info: Jan Marston at jlmarston@comcast.net.

The Men's Breakfast Group meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 8am. Email Ken Schoman at ayuh.ken@gmail.com for details and to join the mailing list.

Morning Poems is a weekly spiritual practice for grounding and connection through poetry. Thursday mornings at 7:30am on Zoom. Contact Kirsten at kirsten@southchurch-uu.org for Zoom information.

The Women’s Breakfast Group meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 8:30am. For more info and to RSVP, contact turningtide@comcast.net.

Covenant Groups are ongoing groups that meet twice a month from October-May. For more info, email covenantgroups@southchurch-uu.org.

South Church Spiritual Book Group meets on the 2nd Wednesday at 7pm on Zoom. For more info: Nancy Lambert at southchurchbookgroup@gmail.com.

We are currently looking for feedback about interest in a Meditation Group. Please reach out to Kirsten Hunter at kirsten@southchurch-uu.org if you have any thoughts!
GROUP CONTACTS

Shared Ministry – sharedministry@southchurch-uu.org
Pastoral Associates – pastoralcare@southchurch-uu.org
Social Justice Associates – socialjustice@southchurch-uu.org
Worship Associates – worship@southchurch-uu.org
Fellowship Associates – fellowship@southchurch-uu.org
Learning Associates – learning@southchurch-uu.org
Com. On Ministry – committeeonministry@southchurch-uu.org
Collaborative Governance – collaborative@southchurch-uu.org

PASTORAL ASSOCIATES

Through the Wider Network of Care, the Pastoral Associates offer rides, meals, companionship, conversation, and support. If you want to be part of the WNC, fill out the yellow card in your pew and give it to your usher! Share your joys and concerns with us at pastoralcare@southchurch-uu.org. You can also reach out directly to Rev. Ellen at revellen@southchurch-uu.org.

CALENDAR

Sunday, December 11
9:30am 5th Grade OWL
9:45am Coming of Age at Court Street
10:00am Online and In Person Worship
4:00pm 7th Grade OWL and Parent Meeting
4:00pm Senior Youth at Court Street

Tuesday, December 13
10:30am Aging with Grace

Wednesday, December 14
8:00am Men’s Breakfast at Cafe Espresso
7:00pm Spiritual Book Group on Zoom

Thursday, December 15
7:30am Morning Poems on Zoon
7:00pm Solstice Vespers

Sunday, December 18
10:00am Online and In Person Worship
11:30am Shawl Ministry in the Emerson Room
4:00pm 7th Grade OWL

MUSIC AND SPIRITUALITY GROUP - DEC 20

The newly formed Music and Spirituality Group is a monthly discussion group for all those who feel a deep connection between their love of music and their spirituality. The groups is designed to inspire spiritual growth and connection to one another through sharing the gift of musical performances, playing and singing together as a group, as well as facilitated discussions based on monthly themes. The first group gathering will be held on Tuesday, December 20 from 7-8:30pm in the sanctuary. For more information, or to get on the contact list, please email Jonny Peiffer at jonny@southchurch-uu.org.

JOIN A COMMITTEE & HELP SHAPE OUR FUTURE

Your beloved South Church is looking for a few vibrant folks to join the Nominating and Personnel Committees for 2023. These committees work behind the scenes with the Board of Trustees preparing the congregation for a bright future. To learn more about these opportunities, length of terms, and typical time commitments, please contact co-chairs Sheila Shea (scshea68@gmail.com) or Deirdre McEachern (coachdeirdre@gmail.com).

UUACTION NH WORKSHOP – JANUARY 8

On Sunday, January 8 from 11:30a-1p in the South Church sanctuary, UUAction NH will present a workshop on How a Bill Becomes a Law in NH. We hope you will attend so you can ask questions, but this valuable tool will be live-streamed and posted on the South Church YouTube channel. January is when we begin to see bills in NH. Our goal is to enable advocacy for or against bills. Watch this space in the new year for selected bills in both NH and ME that pertain to UUANH and SJA areas of interest.

COMMUNITY FRIDGE DONATIONS

Seacoast Fridge is a volunteer-run community food station where you take what you need and leave what you can. The 5th-7th graders are holding a food and supply drive for Seacoast Fridge, and you can bring donations to church. The collection bin will be in the narthex, and you can check the flyers at church for foods that are acceptable before bringing in your donations.
ORDER OF SERVICE

PRELUDE O Tannenbaum Arr. by J. Peiffer
WELCOME Bret Newbury
ANNOUNCEMENTS
INVOCATION
LIGHTING THE CHALICE Bret Newbury
KINDLING THE LIGHTS OF THE SEASON Hope, Peace, and Joy at Advent
MISSION STATEMENT
At South Church, we nurture spiritual growth through worship, learning and community; we celebrate the worth and dignity of all people; and we inspire one another to act on our faith in the larger community.
OPENING WORDS Bret Newbury
OPENING MUSIC #118 This Little Light of Mine
TIME FOR ALL AGES Kirsten Hunter
CHILDREN’S RECESSIONAL #413 Go Now in Peace
OFFERTORY Snowfall Claude and Ruth Thornhill, arr. by J. Peiffer
RESPONSE #1010 Oh, We Give Thanks
PRAYER & MEDITATION Rev. Ellen Quaadgras
CANDLES OF JOY AND CONCERN
We find that taking time to acknowledge our sorrows and joys bring us release, support, and strength and joy. We invite you to take a moment and reflect on a joy or concern you are holding. If it is something you want us to know about, please take a moment and write your concern on the Pastoral Care blue card in the pew. When you come to the table to light your candle, place your card in the basket and we will be in touch with you. If you would like your prayer concern named aloud during the service, please be in touch with the office or Rev. Ellen by Friday and/ or write your concern down and hand it to us before service.

DECEMBER 11, 2022

SERMON “Don’t Let The Light Go Out” Rev. Ellen Quaadgras
Note to parents: Today’s sermon includes reference to Santa – something to take into account as you decide whether to have your children join you for this part of the service.

CLOSING MUSIC #221 Light One Candle by Peter Yarrow
EXTINGUISHING THE CHALICE Bret Newbury
BENEDICTION Rev. Ellen Quaadgras
POSTLUDE Water From An Ancient Well Abdullah Ibrahim

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During the month of December, our collection will shared with National Alliance for Mental Illness NH. NAMI NH is a grassroots organization working to improve the quality of life for all by providing support, education, and advocacy for people affected by mental illness and suicide. Learn more at www.naminh.org

Please join us for a social hour in Parish Hall after Worship.

All of this morning’s music is graciously offered by: Nick Mainella (sax), Josh Gagnon (trombone), Nathan Therrien (bass), Susan Adams (piano), and Jonny Peiffer (drums)

Assisted listening devices are available in the rear of the sanctuary.

We are deeply grateful to the many staff and volunteers whose often unseen efforts make our Sunday services possible. Many thanks to Jennifer Leyden, Tim Dullea, Kevin Leahy, Alice Scease, our custodian, greeters, ushers and everyone else who has lent a hand this week!