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outh 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. We draw from our heritages of freedom, reason, hope, and courage, building on the foundation of love. We strive to be a congregation that

truly welcomes all persons who share our values. We commit to being a congregation that empowers and enhances everyone's participation, especially those with historically marginalized identities.

Love is the power that holds us together and is at the center of our shared values. We are accountable to one another for doing the work of living our shared values through the spiritual discipline of Love.

Inseparable from one another, these shared values include:

Interdependence: We honor the interdependent web of all existence.

Pluralism: We celebrate that we are all sacred beings, diverse in culture, experience, and theology.

Justice: We work to be diverse multicultural Beloved Communities where all thrive.

Transformation: We adapt to the changing world.

Generosity: We cultivate a spirit of gratitude and hope.

Equity: We declare that every person is inherently worthy and has the right to flourish with dignity, love, and compassion.

SOUTH CHURCH

A Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Sunday Services: 10am on State Street & our YouTube Channel

Office Hours: 9am-2pm Tuesday-Friday

WiFi Network: SouthChurchPublic

Wifi Password: SundayMorning

Website: 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-Barry – Director of Children and Family Ministry

Jonny Peiffer – Director of Music Ministry

Jennifer Leyden – Congregational Admin Brigid Murray – Finance Director

Susan Adams – Accompanist Ben Abbott - Tech & Attendant

SOUTH CHURCH



“A Secret About Joy”

**A Unitarian Universalist
Congregation
April 27, 2025**

ARE YOU NEW TO SOUTH CHURCH?

Are you a first-time visitor? Would you like to get more information about this congregation? Scan the QR code to fill out a visitor form or ask an usher for a hard copy!



THE POCKET GARDEN OUR IS ON ITS WAY!

The 36th annual Pocket Gardens of Portsmouth Tour is weeks away on June 13 from 5-8pm and June 14 from 3-8pm. (Not the time change due to Market Square Day) Help the fundraiser grow by purchasing a Bloom to acknowledge a loved one or business at our social table or online! Committee volunteers for the final 6 weeks, garden hosts, and cookie bakers are all needed! Stop by at social hour or email PGT@SouthChurch-UU.org. Garden hosts can sign up online at <https://tinyurl.com/2025pgthosts> or by scanning the QR code.



VISIONING WEEKEND – PLAN TO COME!

We are excited to come together on Saturday, May 10 from 2-5pm and on Sunday, May 11 during and after Worship to work with a professional consultant to develop a fresh and current Vision Statement for our congregation. We've been through a lot together in recent years – where shall we go next? What are our hopes, dreams, and aspirations for South Church? This is your chance to participate in the important work that will guide our future planning! See you there!

BELOVED CONVERSATION - TODAY!

Join us after Worship today for a group discussion and reflection on dismantling racism and its connection to what's happening in our world today. The conversation is for anyone who wants to engage in a deeper personal understanding of race and lineage, explore their own beliefs and attitudes, and work for racial justice.

IMMIGRANT SUPPORT MEETING - TODAY!

A community meeting, focusing on ways to support immigrants on the seacoast, will take place on Sunday, April 27 from 2-5:15pm at Temple Israel in Portsmouth. The meeting is organized by the Seacoast Interfaith Sanctuary Coalition (SISC). All are welcome, but registration is suggested. Scan the QR code to sign up.



BOOK DISCUSSION WITH SENIOR YOUTH - TODAY!

In April, our book discussion will be in partnership with the Senior Youth on Sunday, April 27 from 4-6pm in person. Each will be reading a book about Baltimore that they may choose individually, and the congregation is invited to join.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

On multigenerational worship days, children remain in the sanctuary for worship. There are activity packs and supplies on shelves behind the last row of pews. On all other Sundays, children and youth are invited to go downstairs following the Time For All Ages, to participate in religious education sessions. Children are also always invited to remain in the sanctuary with their families.

The Nursery is open for children 6 weeks through 3 years.

The mission of our RE Program is to provide programming for children, youth, and families that promotes spiritual growth, intergenerational connections, faith development, a UU identity, and social action within a safe and welcoming environment.

For more information on our Religious Education program, email Director of Children & Family Ministries, Jen Del Deo-Barry, at jendeldeo@southchurch-uu.org

ONGOING GROUPS

Aging with Grace meets on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 10:00am on Zoom through February. Contact Ingrid at inkyjapan@yahoo.com for more info.

Chant From Different Traditions meets on the first Sunday at 9am on the balcony or in the gardens. Contact Cathy Okhuysen at cathomusic@gmail.com

The Shawl Ministry meets on the 3rd Sunday at 11:30am in the Emerson Room. Contact: Jan Marston at jmarston@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

Morning Poems meets every Thursday morning at 7:30am on Zoom. Contact info@southchurch-uu.org for more 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. Contact Nancy at bookgroup@southchurch-uu.org

Court Street Yoga meets Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings at Court Street. Check the website for times. Suggested donation \$10/class or \$75/month. For more info, email yoga@southchurch-uu.org

The South Church Cancer Support Group meets on the 2nd Sunday of the month at 11:30am in the Emerson Room. For more information, contact Anne Mackin at annemackin2@gmail.com

South Church Folk meets on Thursdays at 7pm in the sanctuary and typically sings during Worship one Sunday per month. For more information, contact Cathy Okhuysen at cathomusic@southchurch-uu.org

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

Comm. On Ministries – committeeonministries@southchurch-uu.org

CALENDAR

Sunday, April 27

10:00am In Person and Online Worship
11:30am Beloved Conversations
4:00pm Book Group & Senior Youth Book Discussion
4:30pm Seacoast Unity Hub Meeting

Monday, April 28

6:30am Court Street Yoga
7:00pm Committee on Ministries Meeting

Tuesday, April 29

6:00pm Choir Review with Susan
6:30pm South Church Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, April 30

6:30am Court Street Yoga

Thursday, May 1

7:30am Morning Poems on Zoom
7:00pm South Church Folk Rehearsal

Friday, May 2

6:30am Court Street Yoga

Sunday, May 4

9:00am Chants from Different Traditions
9:00am Pocket Garden Tour Meeting
10:00am In Person and Online Worship
11:30am New Member Luncheon
2:00pm Matt Meyer Workshop
4:00pm Senior Youth at Court Street
4:00pm Seacoast Unity Hub Meeting

MATT MEYER: SINGING FOR RESISTANCE AND RESILIENCE

Join us at 2pm on Sunday, May 4 for a song circle, hosted by Matt Meyer, to learn and share songs for protests, rallies, and organizing. Matt serves as the Director of Operations for Sanctuary Boston, a community of vibrant worship and real connection, and he is a much sought after UU Worship and song leader. He has a long background of activism and organizing for social and economic justice, having real impacts in the greater Boston area. Suggested \$25 donation, which can be made on the South Church website, Please join us!

MOTHER'S DAY PLANT SALE - MAY 10 AND 11

The annual Mother's Day Plant Sale is coming soon! This year, beautiful plants will be available for sale on both Sunday, May 11 before and after service, AND on Saturday, May 10 before and after the Visioning Workshop (2-5pm). All plants are \$30. Please come and pick up the perfect gift for the mother figure in your life, or anyone else!

ROOTS SUMMER PROGRAM - AUGUST 11-15

Join us for a week full of fun for kids ages 5 through 12. Play, build community, engage in service projects, and make meaningful connections! Roots runs 9am-3pm, Monday through Friday the week of August 11-15. (Before and after care available for additional cost) Youth ages 12-17 can sign up to be junior helpers/CiT's to offer friendship and support, and to gain developmentally appropriate leadership skills. Learn more at www.southchurch-uu-re.org/roots-summer-program or scan the QR code.



COMMITTEE ON MINISTRIES REFLECTION CIRCLES

The Committee learned a great deal through the recent reflection circle process and is excited to host another reflection circle in early May focused on Kirsten's sabbatical. This is an opportunity for congregants to share how they experienced Kirsten's time away. Please stay tuned for more information about this opportunity and future reflection circles to come in autumn 2025. Should you have questions in the meantime, please contact the Committee on Ministries at CommitteeonMinistries@SouthChurch-UU.org

BUILDING NEW BRIDGES - WAYS TO BE INVOLVED

If you are concerned about the state of the world right now and overwhelmed by not knowing what you can do, feeling alone, or wanting to do something, the Social Justice Associates have something to offer you! Scan the QR to see a list of resources to help you connect with others and help out in a way that resonates!



ORDER OF SERVICE

PRELUDE *Gentle Arms of Eden* South Church Folk
Dave Carter and Tracy Grammer

WELCOME Kirsten Hunter

ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVOCATION

LIGHTING THE CHALICE Willow Young and Kirsten Hunter

*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 Willow Young

*OPENING HYMN #346 *Come, Sing a Song With Me*

TIME FOR ALL AGES Kirsten Hunter

CHILDREN'S RECESSIONAL #413 *Go Now In Peace*

OFFERING INVITATION Willow Young

OFFERTORY	<i>Carry Love</i> Dee Wirak	South Church Folk
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RESPONSE #1010 *We Give Thanks*

PRAYER & MEDITATION Kirsten Hunter

SERMON “A Secret About Joy” Kirsten Hunter

APRIL 27, 2025

*CLOSING HYMN #368 *Now Let Us Sing*

EXTINGUISHING THE CHALICE Willow Young

BENEDICTION Kirsten Hunter

POSTLUDE *Home* South Church Folk
Phillip Phillips

During the month of April, our collection will be shared with 350NH. 350NH works to stop the climate crisis by building grassroots support for a just transition to renewable energy and an end to fossil fuel use and expansion. They are a multigenerational movement of people fighting for clean energy, climate justice, and a future where everyone lives free of environmental injustices.

Learn more at www.350NH.org



Quick Link: Donate to South Church and our monthly Shared Plate!

Point your phone camera at the QR code to the left and head to our mobile site. Make a one time gift, or log in to create recurring gifts!

Assisted listening devices are available in the rear of the sanctuary

*Please rise if you are willing and able