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. 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 enriches and ennobles our faith; we are inspired to deepen our understanding and expand our vision.
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!

ALL CHURCH READ - SEPTEMBER 13
The South Church Book Group, in partnership with Kirsten and Rev. Ellen, invites you to a potluck and discussion of “Rooted: Life at the Crossroads of Science, Nature, and Spirit” by Lyanda Lynn Haupt on Wednesday, September 13. The potluck will begin at 6pm in Parish Hall, followed by a discussion of the book beginning at 7pm. There will not be a zoom option for this event. Please contact bookgroup@southchurch-uu.org if you plan to attend!

COVENANT GROUP SIGN UPS - HAPPENING NOW!
This is your opportunity to meet twice a month with others on the path of self-exploration, spiritual deepening, and community building. You can register online now at www.southchurchcovenantgroup.org or by scanning the QR code on the right! Registration closes on Sunday, October 8. Please select several choices for your preferred meeting day and time. Your convenor will notify you about specifics of your first group meeting in October. More info can be found at https://southchurch-uu.org/what-we-offer/adult-programs/small-group-ministry/

SIGN UP FOR A CIRCLE SUPPER NOW!
Your Fellowship Associates are excited to once again organize Fall Circle Suppers! Hosts have signed up, and now it’s time to fill their tables! Choose the date and location that works best for you, sign up, and your host will contact you with details. To sign up, visit https://tinyurl.com/5n62tx9a. If you have any questions, reach out to fellowship@SouthChurch-UU.org

AGING WITH GRACE _ NEW MEETING DAY AND TIME
As the new church year starts, Aging with Grace will be moving to a new day and meeting place. We will begin our meetings on the second Thursday of the month from 10-11:30am and will be meeting in the McLeod Room at the Portsmouth Public Library. This will make parking and access easier! We hope to see you on September 14 at the library at 10am!

FALL RETREAT - OCTOBER 6-8
The South Church Fall Retreat is October 6-8, 2023. If your pace is hurried and you’re feeling weak and worried, or if you need a little respite for your soul, mark your calendars! Or just come because it’s lots of fun to hang out with other South Church folk! This wonderful event takes place on the shores of Lake Winnipesaukee at Geneva Point Conference Center. Learn more and register at https://southchurch-uu.org/fall-weekend-retreat/ or stop by our table at Social Hour!

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 an open and staffed for children 6 weeks through 3 years old. 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 the 2nd Thursday of the month at 10:00am, at the Ports. Library. Contact Ingrid Ahlberg at inkyjapan@yahoo.com for more info.
Chant From Different Traditions will meet on the first Sunday at 9am on the balcony. Contact Cathy Okhuysen at cathomusic@gmail.com.
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 mail list.
Morning Poems meets on Thursday mornings at 7:30am on Zoom. Join with Meeting ID 8592 070 9438 Contact Kirsten at kirsten@southchurch-uu.org for more info.
The Women’s Breakfast Group meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 8:30am. For more info and to RSVP, contact willow@woodflute.net
Covenant Groups are ongoing groups that meet twice a month from October-May. For more info, email convenantgroups@southchurch-uu.org
South Church Spiritual Book Group meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7pm on Zoom. For more info: Nancy Lambert at bookgroup@southchurch-uu.org
Court Street Yoga is offered on Monday and Friday mornings at 6:30am at 73 Court Street. Suggested donation $10/class or $60/month. For more info, email Alyssa Murphy at manypennymurphy@gmail.com.
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.
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
Com. On Ministries – committeeonministry@southchurch-uu.org
Collaborative Governance – collaborative@southchurch-uu.org

CALENDAR

Sunday, September 10
8:30am Nominating Committee Meeting
10:00am Online and In Person Worship - Multi-generational

Monday, September 11
6:30am Court Street Yoga

Tuesday, September 12
6:00pm Fellowship Associate Meeting

Wednesday, September 13
6:00pm All Church Book Discussion and Potluck

Thursday, September 14
7:30am Morning Poems on Zoom
10:30am Aging with Grace at the Portsmouth Public Library
7:00pm South Church Folk Rehearsal

Friday, September 15
6:30am Court Street Yoga

Sunday, September 17
10:00am Online and In Person Worship
11:30am Knitting Ministry
11:30am Covenant Group Convenor Training

SOUTH CHURCH PRIDE GET TOGETHER
South Church Pride is having a potluck get together at Rita Weatherby’s home at 312 Lincoln Ave in Portsmouth on Saturday, October 7 from 6:30-8:30pm. RSVP’s are requested to rita.weathersby@unh.edu. If you forget to RSVP or have a last minute change in plans, please come anyway!

WIDER NETWORK OF CARE SIGN UP
The Pastoral Associates offer support to South Church members by organizing a large group of volunteers called the Wider Network of Care (WNC). These people send cards, make meals, offer companionship, give rides, do light chores, provide pet care, and help with Celebration of Life receptions. WNC volunteers sign up in any or all of these areas, and it is up to the volunteer when and how often they participate. If you are interested in volunteering for the WNC, do one of the following: fill out the yellow WNC card in your pew, email pastoralcare@southchurch-uu.org, or visit www.tinyurl.com/2243ftwp and fill out the online form.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRIES
The Committee on Ministries (CoM) provides support and advice as needed to the Minister and Director of Lifespan Ministries, and develops channels for congregation-wide reflection and feedback on the ministries at South Church. We are Mitch Pivor, Joanne Holman, Andrew Scease, Susan Dewhirst, Carol Cameron-Sears, and Kimberly Green. We are currently exploring the development of “feedback groups” for the 23-24 church year. These will help us reflect together on the collaborative leadership model and our shared ministry. If you are interested in learning more about the work of the CoM, please reach out to a Committee Member or email committeeonministry@southchurch-uu.org.
ORDER OF SERVICE

PRELUDE
Breaths
By Birago Diop and Ysaye M. Barnwell

WELCOME
Rev. Ellen Quaadgras

ANNOUNCEMENTS
Rev. Ellen Quaadgras

INVOCATION
South Church Choir

LIGHTING THE CHALICE
Rev. Ellen Quaadgras and Hilary Clark

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
Hilary Clark

OPENING HYMN #1007
There’s a River Flowin’ In My Soul

STORY PART ONE
“The Watering Hole Dilemma” by Jen Del Deo-Barry

PRAYER & MEDITATION
Rev. Ellen Quaadgras

STORY PART TWO
Jen Del Deo-Barry

OFFERING INVITATION
Hilary Clark

OFFERTORY
Bring Me Little Water, Sylvie
By Huddie “Lead Belly” Ledbetter

RESPONSE #1010
Oh, We Give Thanks

STORY PART THREE
Jen Del Deo-Barry

REFLECTION
Kirsten Hunter

INTERLUDE
Holy Waters
By Jason Shelton

WATER INGATHERING CEREMONY

CLOSING MUSIC
Bring Me Little Water, Sylvie

EXTINGUISHING THE CHALICE
Hilary Clark

SEPTEMBER 10, 2023

BENEDICTION
Rev. Ellen Quaadgras & Kirsten Hunter

POSTLUDE #1064
Blue Boat Home

During the month of September, our collection will be shared with Gather. Gather serves those in our community experiencing hunger by providing nutritious food through innovative distribution, a Pantry Market, Mobile Market, Meals 4 Kids, and a community produce sharing program. To learn more, visit www.gathernh.org

Donating to South Church, or to our monthly Shared Plate recipient is now easier than ever! 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.

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 Dulea, Kevin Leahy, Ben Abbott, our greeter and ushers, and everyone else who has lent a hand this week!