



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. 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

Sasha Howard - Camera & Sound

SOUTH CHURCH



“Barbie Made Me Do It

A High Holy Days Reflection on Return”

**A Unitarian Universalist
Congregation**

September 20, 2026

REGISTER YOUR CHILDREN FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION!

Register your children and youth for the 2026-2027 church year; it's important that we have accurate and up-to date information. Register at tinyurl.com/Fall26RE or by scanning the QR code.



BE A CIRCLE SUPPER GUEST!

Guests are invited to sign up for a potluck Circle Supper! Dinners are held in October and November, and a complete list and sign ups can be found by scanning the QR code, or visiting

<https://www.southchurch-uu.org/what-we-offer/registration/>

SIGN UP TO HELP AT THE WELCOME DESK!

Help make South Church more welcoming for new folks and long-time members alike! Greet people after church, answer questions, connect folks with others in the congregation, or pass along info/questions to the admin or minister! Contact SharedMinistry@SouthChurch-UU.org if you are interested.



FALL RETREAT REGISTRATION IS OPEN! OCTOBER 9-11

Experience a weekend of connection, exploration, and relaxation during the Fall Retreat on Lake Winnepesaukee from October 9-11. More information at Social Hour, with the QR code or at <https://tinyurl.com/SC26Retreat>

SILENT AND LIVE AUCTION DONATIONS

Your participation in the Live and Silent Auction, no matter how big or small, makes a real difference. Could you donate an item, service, or gift certificate?! We're looking for everything from fine handcrafted items and unique experiences to baked goods, gift cards, and gift baskets. Also very popular are offers of valued services such as landscaping, handyman chores, house cleaning, painting, dog walking, and more. Contact us at Auction@SouthChurch-uu.org



OUR WHOLE LIVES FOR OLDER ADULTS - SIGN UPS OPEN

Back by popular demand! OWL for Older Adults will be offered this year starting on October 18 for up to 12 people, (fourteen, two hour sessions held on Sundays from 1:30-3:30pm). Scan the QR code or visit <https://tinyurl.com/26-27AdultOWL> to sign up.

SHOWER PROGRAM VOLUNTEERS NEEDED THURSDAY MORNINGS

Looking for volunteers for 2 hour shifts on Thursday mornings. Training will be offered on Thursday, September 24th at 11am in the Social Hall (or on zoom). RSVP to Info@SouthChurch-UU.org

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

On most Sundays, the Nursery is open for children 6 weeks through 3 years, and kids in PreK through 7th grade are invited to participate in religious education groups downstairs following the Time For All Ages. Children are also always invited to remain in the sanctuary with their families. On multigenerational worship days, children stay in the sanctuary for worship, where they may choose to play quietly in the Playground or sit in pews.

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, 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 10am at the Ports. Senior Center. 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 Knitting Ministry meets on the 3rd Sunday at 11:30am in the Emerson Room. For info, contact Jan Marston at JLMarston@comcast.net

The **Men's Breakfast Group** meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 8am at Grill 28. Email Ken Schoman at Ayuh.Ken@gmail.com

Morning Poems meets Thursday mornings at 7:30am on Zoom. Contact Kirsten@SouthChurch-UU.org for more information. On hiatus until Sept. 2026

The **Women's Breakfast Group** meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 8:30am at the Golden Egg. 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 Book Group meets on the 2nd Wednesday at 7pm on Zoom. Contact Carrie and Alexandra at BookGroupSouthChurch@gmail.com

Court Street Yoga meets Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings, and Tuesday nights. Check website for info. 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. For more information, contact 4am76virginia@gmail.com

South Church Folk meets on Thursdays at 6:45pm in the sanctuary and typically sings during Worship one Sunday per month. For more information, contact Cathy Okhuysen at CathoMusic@gmail.com

South Church helps with **Community Suppers at Mainspring** various times throughout the year. For more info, contact BettyOlivolo@gmail.com

CALENDAR

Sunday, September 20

- 9:00am 200th Anniversary Committee Meeting
- 10:00am In person and Online Worship
- 11:30am Drop In Covenant Group Sampler
- 11:30am Knitting Ministry
- 12:00pm "Who Are the Free Staters" presentation
- 12:00pm RE Volunteer Training

Monday, September 21

- 6:30am Court Street Yoga
- 6:00pm Property Committee Meeting

Tuesday, September 22

- 5:30pm Court Street Yoga

Wednesday, September 23

- 6:30am Court Street Yoga

Thursday, September 24

- 7:30am Morning Poems on Zoom
- 11:00am Shower Volunteer Training
- 5:30pm Court Street Yoga
- 6:45pm South Church Folk

Friday, September 25

- 6:30am Court Street Yoga
- 7:00pm Sparks and Flames

Sunday, September 27

- 10:00am In person and Online Worship
- 2:00pm "A Church Built of Granite" book launch
- 4:00pm Senior Youth at Court Street

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRIES - LET'S TALK MUSIC!

The Committee on Ministries (CoM) has scheduled three Reflection Circles this fall on the topic of music. We'll explore how we experience music at South Church. Dates are Sundays, October 4 and November 1 after church, and Tuesday, October 13 at 7pm. Look for our sign-up table at Social Hour, or contact CommitteeOnMinistries@SouthChurch-UU.org. Reflection Circles provide ongoing opportunities for collective reflection on the ministries at South Church; please add your voice to the discussion.

SOUTH CHURCH VISION STATEMENT

South Church is widely known as a vibrant spiritual home where people of all ages and abilities, beliefs and identities seek meaning and purpose, inspiration and comfort.

Rooted in love, we carry forward a legacy of care for one another, our Seacoast community, and the Earth we share.

United in our ever-deepening practice of Unitarian Universalist values, we act with courage and serve with joy for a more just, compassionate, and thriving world.



COVENANT GROUP DROP-IN SAMPLER AND SIGN UPS - TODAY!

Learn how South Church Covenant Groups offer opportunities for connection and reflection with other South Church folks. This sampler will give you a sense of being in a Covenant Group while exploring the details and answering questions. Scan the QR code or visit <https://tinyurl.com/26-27Covenant> to sign up.

WHO ARE THE FREE STATERS - TODAY AT 12PM

Join the SJA's today at noon for a presentation about the Free Staters, their goals and agenda, and the billionaires that back them. All are welcome to join us in the sanctuary from 12-2pm. Free and open to all!

BOOK LAUNCH: A CHURCH BUILT OF GRANITE BY JANET POLASKY - SEP. 27

The South Church 200th Anniversary Committee would like to invite you to the book launch for Janet Polasky's book, "A Church Built of Granite", as well as an open event at the Portsmouth Public Library.

On **September 27 at 2pm** at South Church, Janet will be interviewed by former news reporter Cathy Wolff, and will be available to sign books. Refreshments will be offered. Books will be available for sale, and for pick-up if you pre-ordered. If you would like to help out with refreshments, please sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/IPBookLaunch>

On **October 8 at 6pm** at the Port. Public Library, Janet will read an excerpt from the book and be interviewed by Kimberly Cloutier Green, author and former Poet Laureate of Portsmouth. Both events are free and all are welcome.

ALL-CHURCH READ - OCTOBER 7

The book group has chosen to discuss "A Church Built of Granite: Four Centuries of Faith, Conscience and Community in a New Hampshire Seaport" by Janet Polasky for the all-church read. We will begin with a potluck dinner on October 7 at 6pm followed by a discussion with Rev. Ellen, Kirsten, and the author! Several copies will be available to borrow through the church office. For more info, contact BookGroupSouthChurch@gmail.com

ORDER OF SERVICE

PRELUDE *Gymnopedie No. 2* E. Satie
Jonny Peiffer and Will Cicola

WELCOME Rev. Ellen Quaadgras

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

INVOCATION #9 *No Longer Forward Nor Behind*

LIGHTING THE CHALICE

*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 Katherine Errecart

*OPENING HYMN #1011 *Return Again*

TIME FOR ALL AGES Kirsten Hunter

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

OFFERING INVITATION Katherine Errecart

OFFERTORY *Gnossienne No. 1* E. Satie
Jonny Peiffer and Will Cicola

RESPONSE #1010 *We Give Thanks*

MEDITATION & PRAYER Rev. Ellen Quaadgras

CANDLES OF JOY & CONCERN

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 yellow Pastoral Care card in the pew.

SERMON Rev. Ellen Quaadgras

"Barbie Made Me Do It
A High Holy Days Reflection on Return"

SEPTEMBER 20, 2026

CLOSING HYMN #1037 *We Begin Again in Love*

EXTINGUISHING THE CHALICE

BENEDICTION Rev. Ellen Quaadgras

POSTLUDE *Brand New Day* Sting (Us3)
Jonny Peiffer, Will Cicola, and Jennifer Leyden

September Theme: Beginnings

September Shared Plate: Gather

During the month of September, our collection will be shared with Gather. Gather provides nutritious food and prepared meals to those experiencing hunger on the Seacoast in NH and Maine. They do this through their pantry market, mobile markets, and innovative food access programs. Gather serves thousands of Seacoast residents each month and distributes over 1.6 million pounds of food each year.

Learn more at www.GatherNH.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!

Many thanks to Will Cicola (clarinet) for the gift of music this morning.