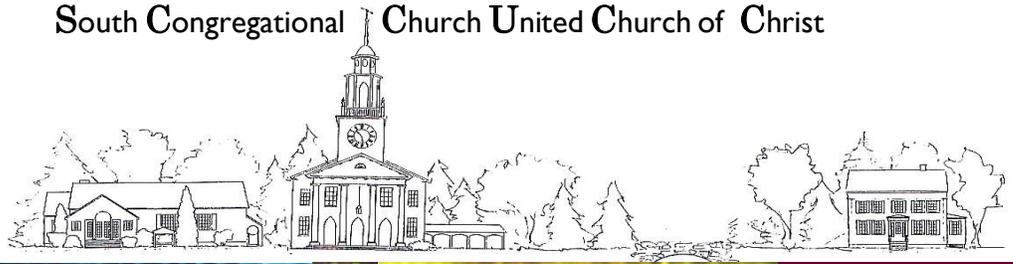


South Congregational Church United Church of Christ



May 2017

Words from our Minister

I've been reading The Book of Joy by Archbishop Desmond Tutu and the Dalai Lama. They each speak of suffering and how that has the power to unite us with others around the globe, a timely message. Certainly the suffering of Christ and his humanity on the cross connects us in powerful ways. The resurrection, gives us hope that new light dawns upon us. God is not done with us yet. In facing obstacles and challenges in life, Archbishop Desmond Tutu states, "And in a kind of paradoxical way, it is how we face all of the things that seem to be negative in our lives that determines the kind of person we become." We are often shaped by events not of our own choosing or desire. Yet we set our new course and take the next step.

As winter is now in the past and spring arrives in southern Maine, we begin to explore the new season before us. We are no longer the same people who entered the shadows of winter months earlier. Now enlightened. Now wiser. Now more able and ready to make the journey *Rev. Charles*



Sunrise-Easter Service, Kennebunk Beach

Photo by Rev. Charles

"The word 'humility' actually comes from the Latin word for earth or soil... Humility literally brings us back to earth, sometimes with a thud."

The Book of Joy by Archbishop Desmond Tutu and the Dalai Lama

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. Whiston
You Should Know
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Sunday Worship 10:30 am
(Nursery Care provided)

Sunday School 10:30 am
Classes

Thank You

Charlie has a new title for his resume: "Roadside Assistance", just like A.A.A.

On February 12th I was on my way home from church on Log Cabin Road near the Trolley Museum when I said, "Oh, what is that in the road?" (a large dump of snow). A minute later I hit a big snow plow. I woke up looking out the passenger window and heard knocking on the window. I opened it and a woman asked me if I was alright. She called the police. At one point another face showed in my window and I said, "Charlie, what are you doing here?" He just took over at that point.

I spoke with the sheriff and EMT who lead me across the street to Charlie's car. (Charlie and Bill Clark were on their way to Biddeford when they came across the accident.) They asked me where I wanted to take the car. I said, "Bill Guay's." No, they told me too much damage. Somehow it was decided where it should go. Charlie made sure I had all my belongings, he went back to get the dog food in the back seat. All the while taking care of all the details. They then said I could go home, so Charlie brought me home, continuing his warm thoughtful behavior.

I have a bruise on my head and have gone to the doctor's, no concussion but it still hurts. I don't know what I would have done during all the confusion and my condition if Charlie and Bill had not happened upon me; Charlie blessed me with his presence. He was kind and reassuring, patient, loving and respectful. What more could you want when you get, "Roadside Assistance."

Eva Barnfather

Many thanks to the volunteers who worked on the Habitat house for our South Church work day, April 22, and the crew who made lunches for everyone!



Two and a half bedrooms plus the bathroom and closets all received sheet rock, a major accomplishment. Well done!

Working alongside the new homeowner, it is anticipated the family will move in sometime in early June.



Mark Your Calenders



SPECIAL MUSIC SUNDAY – JUNE 11



On Music Sunday, June 11, The adult choir will perform Felix Mendelssohn's beautiful cantata, "*Hear My Prayer*". The cantata is in three sections and features a soprano soloist and significant choral parts throughout the composition. The musical text by William Bartholomew, is a paraphrased version of Psalm 55: 1–7. The composition was first performed in Crosby Hall, London, on January 8, 1845. Our Chime Choir will also present hymn arrangements composed by our Music Director, David Brandes.



Jean Danton, acclaimed soloist throughout the United States and Europe, will be our guest soprano soloist for the performance. Ms. Danton has appeared in major musical venues with prestigious musical organizations, including New York's Lincoln Center Avery Fisher Hall, Carnegie Hall, the Boston Pops with Keith Lockhart, Handel and Haydn Society with Christopher Hogwood, Pennsylvania's historic Mishler Theatre, The Oregon Bach Festival with Helmuth Rilling, The Bach Aria Festival in Italy, The North Carolina Symphony, The Buffalo Opera Company, The Baltimore Symphony, The Boston Opera Company, and The Carmel Bach Festival, to name only a few. She has released several recordings and has appeared on television documentaries for PBS and Lifetime. In addition to the Mendelssohn cantata, Ms Danton will also sing the beautiful Handel solo, "*Angels, Ever Bright and Fair*" from his oratorio *Theodora*.



A **workshop and lecture with Diana Butler Bass**, nationally recognized author of "*Grounded-Finding God in the World*" and spiritual director, May 5/6 at the Brunswick UCC church afternoon and evening offerings. FMI: www.firstparish.net Tel: 729-7331

This year's **5K/2mile Walk to benefit York County Shelter Programs** takes place AT THE CAMPUS SITE IN ALFRED, 147 SHAKER HILL RD (not at Kennebunk Beach), Saturday May 20. Once again, South Church is a sponsor of this event through our Outreach Committee. Tel: 324-1137 or FMI: <http://www.yorkcountyshelterprograms.com/> which tells more of this great program.

A **joint program ,“Cognitive Impairment, Alzheimer's, and Communication Strategies,”** here with Peter Baker of the Maine Alzheimer's Association and Elizabeth Grant, on Wednesday June 7 at 3:00pm in the Community House. Come to learn more of nearby resources and share your experiences and learnings in what is often so challenging and depleting of energy.

Celebrating our maritime heritage at South Church, **Maritime Sunday** will be on May 28 this year.

Scholarship applications for those pursuing further educational opportunities are now available in the church office.... and due back in completed form June 1. Applicants must be members of or affiliated here at South Church.



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Life Journeys

Death March 30 Whitney Vir Coffin
(Memorial Service here - June 24, 1:00pm)

Last month five volunteers from South Church help serve 78 folks at the **Bon Appetite Soup Kitchen** in Biddeford. Once again, we will increase our help to 2 Tuesdays during the summer months when they lose many of its student group help. We will add the first Tuesday to our regular third Tuesday beginning June.

Pilgrim Lodge – an excellent camp program of our Maine Conference-United Church of Christ. Located on beautiful Lake Cobbosseecontee in West Gardiner, a variety of week long camps through the summer. Brochures are here and financial assistance is available through the church and our Women's Association. FMI: www.pilgrimlodge.org

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