

South Congregational Church United Church of Christ



October 2017

Words from our Minister

During the summer change of pace, I jump into additional reading. For pleasure, I read Perfect Match by Jodi Piccoult. Her works often incorporate real life issues, this one of domestic abuse in a marriage. Piccoult's writings also reflect our human condition, stories of individuals grappling with imperfect lives to reveal meaningful living. Also on this list was Two Tents by Jim Haskell who records his learnings and reflections upon hiking the Appalachian Trail.

42 Faith was recommended to me, a compelling story of Jackie Robinson who broke the deeply embedded color barrier in professional baseball. Along side are the actions of team owner Branch Ricky who sought out Robinson and believed the time had come to break the segregation barrier; not just for sport but for the country. The author consistently speaks of the faith backgrounds of these two individuals and the manner in which they were raised in the church. A reminder of ethical teachings and morals during the early years becoming a foundation for the future. Finally, I've been reading The Road to Character by David Brooks. This author presents the observation that much our society and many of its leaders have strayed from the foundation of essential character to lure of power and prestige. From his introduction, *"We live in a society that encourages us to think about how to have a great career but leaves many of us inarticulate about how to cultivate the inner life."*

As we begin the program year together and in the midst of our human frailty, we are called to be people of faith - of integrity in character and honorable in deeds. All these messages are embedded in our Biblical heritage and teachings. May God continue to be our guide. Rev. Charles



OUTREACH LOCAL AND BEYOND OUR DOOR

Our Outreach Committee continues to be active in personal visits to our Iraqi family in Biddeford with whom we are paired in friendship and support. New sneakers for the children were delivered in September as the school year begins. In addition, bicycles and helmets have been delivered to several immigrant families through the 'Cycle Recycle' program which we also support.

In response to the recent hurricanes in TX and FL, \$500 was sent for immediate aid and support through out United Church of Christ Disaster Ministries program. Individual contributions are also welcome and can be sent through South Church.

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

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Sunday Worship 10:30 am
(Nursery Care provided)

Sunday School 10:30 am
Classes

Christian Education

Sunday School

As church school begins this year, we'll have a younger group (nursery to grade 2) that will meet each week in the nursery room of the church and share a simple lesson / activity together. A group of five parent volunteers have offered to be present, one each week.

Those grades 3 and older will also begin upstairs in the sanctuary with their families then depart to class time in the Community House after "Words to Children" with Rev. Charles. The one change for this year is that on Communion Sundays (the first of each month), this older group will remain in the worship service- no class on those days. For more information, please contact any one of us, anytime. *Beth Gachowski and Megan Grassi, Co-Directors*

*Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat,
but the tree of knowledge of good and evil,
thou shalt not eat of it. Genesis*



Art work from Sunday School grades 3 and up on the above story in Genesis.

Fall All Church Picnic 2017



Fall Bible Study

Join us Monday mornings in November from 9:30 to 10:30 am for a study of Proverbs entitled: *"A Word to the Wise...And to the rest of us!"* A conversational study of everyday wisdom for the everyday life of faith.

You Should Know...

Returning to South Church for a Fall Concert—**The New England Brass Band** on Saturday, October 28 at 3:00pm. Co-sponsored by South Congregational Church and the Church on the Cape, the 30 piece brass and percussion players will offer a unique and colorful sound by adhering to the instrumentation of the “British Brass Band” tradition.

For over 30 years, the Musical Director of the band, Stephen Bulla served as the Chief Arranger for the President’s own Marine Band and the White House Orchestra.

This is a concert you won’t want to miss! The concert will be held here in the sanctuary of South Church.

Youth Choir rehearsals have begun. They will meet in the church immediately following the worship service and during the post service coffee time; a fun opportunity for our school age young people. The rehearsal lasts for only twenty-five minutes in an effort to avoid detaining parents. The Youth Choir will sing at two or three Sunday services during the fall season. Fun theatrical elements are often incorporated into their presentation, and singers are given a special surprise gift every time they sing during service.



Rehearsals for the Adult Choir have begun Thursdays from 7:15pm to 8:45pm, in the choir room. The Choir regularly at our 10:30 Sunday morning services and on special occasions. Choir provides a wonderful opportunity for fellowship, and to experience the unique beauty of sacred music and the joy of making music with others.

‘Dine With Nine’

An informal time of getting together for a good meal and good company with others of the church family. To help us plan, a sign-up sheet is in the hallway. Thank you Fellowship Committee for bringing us together.

The Next Gathering of Dine With Nine



Life Journeys

Weddings

September 9 Catherine Fanton Hoyt and Matthew Steven Smith
September 16 Valerie Lynn Porrazzo and Allen Douglas O'Brien
September 17 Katlyn Carol Ann Hirschy and Pier-Michel Lapointe



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Our **Meditation Garden** continues to take new form and shape these weeks. If you enjoy gardening and working the earth with your hands, join the volunteer crew to help out. Sign-up sheet awaits you. Thank you Missy Jordan and our Deacons for this effort which benefits us all.



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



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