

>>> SOUTH CHURCH ANDOVER NEWSLETTER <<<

THE CIRCLE



boldly embodying God's love and compassion



Our beloved sanctuary—words simply cannot capture what awaits you. This is something you can only behold with your own eyes. Now it's time to return to harbor. To come home to church.

Sacred space matters. When we gather in our renewed sanctuary, we affirm something the world needs to hear: the church is not dormant, closed, or dead. The church is alive and new, restored and ready to serve God's purposes for generations to come. *Read more of Pastor's Dana's letter on page 2.*

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A NOTE FROM DANA

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This summer, many of us found ourselves drawn to water in countless ways. Perhaps you put your feet in the cool ocean waves during a beach vacation, or took a peaceful boat ride across a quiet lake. Maybe you paddled your kayak through marsh waters while birding, watching herons stand motionless in the shallows. Or perhaps your summer water moments were closer to home—floating in a backyard pool on a hot afternoon, or simply drinking glass after glass of water to stay hydrated during those seemingly endless heatwaves.

Water sustains us, refreshes us, and calls us toward adventure and renewal. It's no wonder that Jesus used the image of water—specifically, the deep waters of the Sea of Galilee—when he called his disciples to extraordinary faith.



>>> "PUT OUT INTO DEEP WATER AND LET DOWN YOUR NETS FOR A CATCH." - LUKE 5:4

Like those disciples, we've heard God's call to put out into deep waters, even when we were uncertain. Six years ago, we first started dreaming about a capital campaign—and then a global pandemic hit, reminding us that timing is rarely perfect and faith is rarely convenient. Two years ago, we were deciding on projects and exploring our congregation's willingness to engage with such a major effort. A year ago, we launched our "Rooted in Faith, Growing in Hope" Capital Campaign.

Even when it never seemed like the right time to leave the safety and comfort of the familiar shoreline, we did the faithful thing. We trusted. We launched out into the deep. And oh, how God has blessed our faithfulness! Like the disciples whose nets were so full they nearly broke, our boat overflows with abundance beyond what we could have imagined.

This abundance flows not just from financial generosity, though that has been extraordinary. It flows from the incredible lay leaders who have made this effort possible: our AV team ensuring we stayed connected during our time away, our Capital Campaign team who guided us through every phase, Andy our faithful Facilities Manager, along with our whole staff who have made sacrifices and accommodated lots of change and dusty construction. Our Building Team—Betsy Davis, Marty Mason, and Mike Kraleý—have practically lived at the church these past months. The incredible partnership with BW Kennedy and the genuine pride they've taken in this building and their construction work has been a gift beyond measure. Most of all, this abundance flows from the faithfulness and trust of all our church members who gave so generously—not just financially, but with their time, their patience, their prayers, and their unwavering belief that this sacred work mattered.

After 4.5 months of intensive construction, we're preparing to return home to our church building. Our Fellowship Hall now welcomes us with efficient heat pumps that will serve us for decades to come. Our updated bathrooms reflect the dignity we believe every person deserves. Our kitchen stands ready to nourish both body and soul through countless meals and gatherings. The memorial garden has become a beautiful new space for contemplation and remembrance, where earth meets heaven in quiet moments of prayer.

Look up and see how our steeple glistens in the sun with its fresh coat of paint—a beacon visible from far and wide, declaring that this church, established in 1711, continues to proclaim that God's love and justice are just as relevant, important, and needed today as they have ever been. A new fire suppression system now protects this historic landmark, ensuring it will stand safe and strong for generations to come.

And our beloved sanctuary—words simply cannot capture what awaits you. This is something you can only behold with your own eyes. We've restored a building from 1861 so that it honors our history while embodying our theology that all are welcome in our pews and in our chancel space. Now it's time to return to harbor. To come home to church. To witness together what God can do in our midst when we trust enough to put out into deep waters.

Sacred space matters. When we gather in our renewed sanctuary, we affirm something the world needs to hear: the church is not dormant, closed, or dead. The church is alive and new, restored and ready to serve God's purposes for generations to come. God has been so faithful. As we prepare to return home, let us give thanks for the abundance that surrounds us and recommit ourselves to the deep-water faith that brought us here. The best is yet to come.

Welcome home, Good People! *Pastor Dana*

COMING HOME THIS FALL

OPEN DOORS, OPEN HEARTS, OPEN TABLES

After a season away from our beloved sanctuary, we are coming home! In our Fall worship series, we will celebrate and explore together the ways that God is on the move in our midst.

September begins with Homecoming Sunday, as we give thanks for Open Doors, and remember our call to radical welcome. In October, we consider the ways that Jesus calls us to live with Open Hearts, following the Way of the Gospel with bold love and compassion. And in November, as we prepare to gather at tables and celebrate the holiday season, we remember that ours is the God of Open Tables—because in God's house, there is room for everyone.



BETTER TOGETHER: INTERGENERATIONAL WORSHIP

A NEW MONTHLY RHYTHM FOR WORSHIP, WONDER, AND CONNECTION.

By Taylor Graffum, Minister of Youth & Families

We're excited to introduce a new tradition to our Sunday worship rhythm. Starting this fall, our 10AM worship service on the fourth Sunday of the month will be Intergenerational Worship — a time when our entire church family, from the youngest to the oldest, gathers together for the full worship experience.

On these special Sundays, children are invited to remain in the sanctuary for the entire service. We'll be making thoughtful adaptations to ensure worship is welcoming, engaging, and meaningful for everyone in the room. Instead of a traditional sermon, we'll share a message for all ages (an extended children's message) designed to help us grow across generations.

Other elements will include:

- Children helping to light prayer candles (like they do on long weekends)
- A hands-on, reflective activity for all ages
- Space for wonder, questions, and connection

On these Sundays, you can expect a bit more movement and joyful noise. Children may wiggle, whisper, or wander in the aisle, and we'll welcome it all as part of the sacred sound of a vibrant, living church. Their presence brings energy, spontaneity, and life into our worship — a beautiful reminder that God meets us right where we are, just as we are.

>>> THERE IS SOMETHING DEEPLY JOYFUL ABOUT WORSHIPING AND GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER.

Over the years, we've felt the spark of that joy when our children have been in worship — singing in choirs, reading scripture on Mission Trip Sunday, sharing their statements of faith on Confirmation Sunday, belting out a hymn next to us, searching for the Bible story in our pew Bibles or surprising us with their honest (and often unexpected) insights during children's messages. These moments remind us: we are better together.

The church has the incredible opportunity to be a rare and sacred space in a world that often separates people by age. Everyone belongs, all are loved, and every voice matters. As we enter into this new year of ministry together, we're filled with gratitude and hope as we continue to lean into what makes South Church so special.

Note: Nursery care will still be available for children Kindergarten and under on these Sundays. There will be no Sunday School on these Sundays.

RINGERS SHINE AT REGIONAL FEST

A FOUR-DAY FESTIVAL OF ARTISTRY, CONNECTION, AND INSPIRATION

By Linda Mesler

From June 26–29, twelve members of the South Church Ringers attended the regional Handbell Musicians of America Festival Conference at Worcester State University—a four-day gathering dedicated to celebrating music, handbell artistry, and community.

Festival Experience

Over 400 ringers from across New England and beyond participated. Our ensemble took part in massed rehearsals; workshops focusing on technique, repertoire and skill-building; and performances led by distinguished clinicians and composers. The event was both musically invigorating and deeply enjoyable. We spent months preparing the challenging repertoire, sharing some pieces with you before the festival. Still, nothing could replicate the excitement of ringing with hundreds of others in a large athletic arena. We joined classes on advanced techniques, musical expression, and ensemble leadership. As one participant reflected, “Being part of something so much bigger than ourselves was powerful—hearing hundreds of bells ring together was unforgettable.”

Our Contribution

We brought five complete octaves of bells and chimes, which the festival organizers placed in the front row of the main concert venue. What an honor for South Church and a testimony to our Music Ministry! The tables at the front of the venue are used for smaller ensembles in concerts, and the festival organizers expect these bells to be in top shape. The recent addition of our newest bells and chimes, donated in loving memory of Paul & Audrey Rutherford and Virginia & Philip Dennett, continues to benefit the greater bell community as well as the South Church.

A highlight of the event was our energetic performance of “Yellow Submarine,” featuring ocean-themed props and floating bubbles. This lighthearted piece delighted the audience and showcased our creativity.

Connections and Inspiration

Beyond music, the festival was about building relationships. We connected with musicians from other churches and community ensembles, sharing stories, encouragement, and laughter. Shared meals, impromptu coaching, and evening concerts fostered a spirit of joy and camaraderie, creating bonds across generations.

Looking Forward

We returned home inspired and renewed, equipped with new skills and a fresh sense of purpose. The experience will enrich our future musical offerings. We invite you to join us at upcoming worship services to hear what we’ve brought back from our musical adventure!



BLESSED BE THE TIES THAT BIND

INSPIRATION FROM THE 2025 UCC GENERAL SYNOD IN KANSAS CITY

By The Rev. Genevieve Hosterman, Associate Pastor

This July, I had the pleasure to attend my third UCC General Synod, hosted this year in Kansas City Missouri. Every three years (previously every two years), we gather together from all over the country to consider together how we want to Be the Church as one body of Christ. Here is an excellent summary of the highlights, from a note sent out by the Southern New England Conference General Synod Planning Team:

“For 7 days, we worked and played, prayed and laughed, discussed and discerned, connected and committed, not only with each other but with 350+ other delegates from across the United Church of Christ, National Ministries staff, ecumenical partners and visitors. We engaged topics ranging from bylaw changes to the dismantling of USAID, from the genocide in Gaza to the unique needs of small town and rural churches, from the bible as a tool of resistance to tyranny to full communion with the Evangelische Kirche in Deutschland (EKD) and the Iglesia Evangélica Unida de Puerto Rico (IEUPR), and so much more!”

I attended Synod this year as part of my training through NGLI. In addition to some good conversation and programming with my cohort and other members of the NGLI network, I also had the joy of participating in events as part of the 20/30s Clergy Network National Planning Team, and as a Yale/Andover Newton Alumnus.

I met a lot of new folks and learned about some exciting programs and organizations who are doing the good work of the church in the world. It's always such a joy at Synod to connect with friends old and new! I even had the chance to catch up with a beloved mentor from Pennsylvania, Amelia Price, who was a major support for me during my ordination process--it was such a sweet surprise to find her there!

I am so thankful for my time away and so inspired by the reminder of what becomes possible when we all gather our hands and hearts together. Blessed be the ties that bind our hearts together in community!



KINDNESS, LAUGHS, & MEMORIES

SUMMER OF SERVICE

By Hazel Aude & Casey Michael, Summer Interns

Our Summer of Service kids were busy this summer—not just with projects, but with moments of connection that remind us why this work matters.

One day, while youth were helping at a local food pantry, one SOS kid noticed folks in line speaking Spanish and she started speaking in Spanish to communicate more easily with them. It was such a simple, generous act—and a beautiful reminder that kindness often looks like meeting people right where they are.

Meanwhile, during the first week of SOS, the weather forced us indoors at Steven's Coolidge Estate. Their barn became our workspace on a rainy, gray day, but instead of dampening spirits, it sparked some of the funniest conversations of the summer. For three straight hours, laughter and chatter filled the barn as projects got done.

These are the moments that stick with us—the kindness, the joy, the connection. They're what make Summer of Service more than just work: they make it a community.



- 90 kids total
- Over 1300 service hours
- 14 organizations



"My experience at SOS was very nice. I really liked it and enjoyed my time there, mainly the fact that we got to go out and help others. The staff was very nice, helpful and welcoming. I felt like I was part of something special! It was the best camp I've ever been to. The other camps no one really cares about anything, they're just kind of there to be there. I already asked my mom to sign me up for next year - I just wish it was more than 3 weeks!"

1st Time SOS Kid

HAZEL

I have been going to SOS for years, and I am almost crying—it is my last time writing names in a bending paper composition book. My childhood is over. It has been for years, because now I recognize SOS sites and days as annual and weekly events, rather than spontaneous moments. For me, SOS intern work is like building a kid's childhood, so it felt important.

One time, when I was a camper, I ran away and hid in a cabinet. I felt lonely. Then a counselor came, found me, and talked to me about my interests. My goal this summer was to be like that counselor while also supporting the counselors.

CASEY

Working at Summer of Service this year has been a great experience that challenged me to grow both personally, professionally, and as a member of the community. Personally, as a teaching major at the University of Connecticut, I was able to get very good experience working with middle school and high school students, allowing me to not only confirm that education is the field I was to pursue but also helped me narrow down what age groups I am interested in teaching. Professionally I have been able to grow in a way I never have before. Getting to run the 'behind the scenes' of SOS gave me the opportunity to work in a more administrative role than I have before. As a member of the community, I was able to take a deeper look into the struggles that so many people go through in this town and those surrounding us.

Getting to take a step back, looking at the bigger picture, and getting to help those who are less fortunate was an experience that I will remember forever and one that will allow me to keep perspective in my life.

COURAGE IN OUR LINEAGE

FROM JUNETEENTH TO WEEKLY STANDOUTS, CARRYING GOD'S LOVE INTO ACTION

By Meredith Moody

Through the summer, the Social Justice Coalition's mission of fighting racism has been lived out in times of frustration and times of joy. From the moment the SJC first considered responding to what was happening in our country by **demonstrating along Central Street**, prayer has sustained us—and continues to do so. We began with prayer, and it has carried us from week to week over the past five months.

Courage is in our lineage! So many more named and unnamed individuals over the millennia have stepped out in faith to bring God's love and will into action. History teems with good, courageous people. Let us be counted among them!

As we embark on this new adventure, we pray the power of the Holy Spirit will enable us to do anything you call us to do. Lord, reveal to us our bravery, sharpen our wisdom.

We'll stand out on the curb, ready to talk to some new person, ally or dissenter; we'll pray for the angry passerby; we'll stretch to call people into conversation rather than call them out with judgement; we will be bold yet imperfect in our effort to be visible, to be fiercely loving in your name and honor.

May the power of the Holy Spirit that lives within each of us move the people around us to stand and speak out for humanity and democracy. May we love you God with all our heart and mind and soul, and love our neighbors as ourselves.



Join the line of 25–150 protesters on Thursday afternoons, standing to defend our democracy and champion mercy for the vulnerable.

In a time when DEI and Black History are being erased, Andover joyfully celebrated Juneteenth—honoring Black History as American History. For the fifth annual Juneteenth Celebration, the SJC collaborated with Andover Baptist Church, Christ Church, and Temple Emanuel. The Town of Andover fully *continued on next page*



COURAGE IN OUR LINEAGE: CONTINUED

...supported the event by permitting a festive block party downtown along Central Street. The theme was Freedom of Expression: Looking Back, Honoring the Present, Envisioning the Future.



Rooted in history, Char Lyons shared how South Church has addressed racism through the years. Amy Joyall and Rachel Combs engaged the crowd with a Juneteenth trivia contest and explained how the SJC's current demonstrations for Democracy and Humanity honor the theme of Freedom of Expression in the Present. Yara Halasa and Meredith Moody oversaw joyful activities—sidewalk chalk, balloon artistry, and face painting—where diverse families engaged together,

offering a hopeful vision of the future. Throughout the afternoon and evening, Pastor Genna welcomed attendees, sharing the love of South Church and the joy of Juneteenth.

The SJC continues to faithfully support foster children living in long-term placement at the Little Heroes Group Home and advocates persistently for juvenile justice reform at the state and county level. Join us by reaching out to Meredith Moody or Jan Holden.



DID YOU KNOW...

FROM BULLET HOLES TO POTATO MASHERS: TALES OF OUR RENOVATION

By Char Lyons, South Church Historian

Did you know...

Our 5-foot-tall weathervane atop the 165-foot spire once had a bullet hole clean through the arm, discovered in 1931? Or that birds often pick fights with it? When we cleaned out the kitchen, we found vintage aluminum utensils, including a pair of 2-foot-long potato mashers! And the sanctuary seatback cushions have several layers of fabric hidden beneath them.

As our multi-layered project of repair, renovation, updating, and reducing our carbon footprint comes to a close, here are some highlights.

These improvements grew out of years of listening, researching, safety and structural studies, and involving the congregation in the process. The volunteer hours have been astronomical — but what a way to move forward: raising money, then making it happen! And that's just the physical side of the project.



»»» WHILE THE BUILDING WAS “CLOSED,” THE CHURCH AND ITS PROGRAMMING WERE NOT.



The success of worship at Cochran Chapel (thanks to the AV team and Deacons), Summer of Service at Christ Church, the Farmers Market at The Park, and the Food Pantry at the Senior Center took scores of hours of planning with our community partners. Keeping the rest of the building open for programs was another major commitment by the staff. For example, ensuring that AA could continue to meet here showed a special level of dedication to our mission.

Nora Pelt kept us up to date with progress — including stunning photos from the sanctuary ceiling! She admits she faced her fear of heights by climbing the scaffolding to capture them. We should be proud of our staff for making each pivot with care, concern, and aplomb.

Inside the building, since April, teams of Holy Helpers prepped the sanctuary by moving everything out — from cushions to hymnals and Bibles — and then returning it all. They emptied the kitchen, discovering treasures along the way, and washed every dish, pot, pan, and utensil before reorganizing them in the revamped kitchen. Some vintage finds will be displayed for fun. *continued on next page*

DID YOU KNOW: CONTINUED

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...A major objective was to make the building ADA-compliant, which brought unique challenges. Brenda Bryan designed a kitchen workspace to accommodate a wheelchair. Betsy Davis, Mike Kralej, Marty Mason, and Andy Brien worked with architects and builders on countless details to improve safety and access throughout the building. As Betsy notes, “Many of our spaces were not designed with access in mind (like the balcony seating or the men’s room near the narthex), and are not easily or cost-effectively modified. We brought the project to the MAAB (Massachusetts Architectural Access Board) and worked to make the building as accessible as possible while preserving as much history as we could.” Bravo, Betsy!

The design/build model with BW Kennedy Co., partnering with DiMella Shaffer Architects, was outstanding. Everyone noted how much of a pleasure lead supervisor John Reppenhagen was to work with. His pride in workmanship, care for history, and sense of ownership of the project were palpable.

»»» WHEN THE SANCTUARY PLATFORM WAS FRAMED, HE EAGERLY CALLED THE TEAM

together to see it. Betsy recalls, “Seeing the new platform finally framed and floored was really wonderful. Standing on it and getting the sense of what it will be like for the pastors to preach from there — it’s amazing.”

What a difference 100 years makes in how projects are decided and managed! In 1919, when the sanctuary ceiling was falling apart, decisions were made by a small group of affluent men. Marquis Converse (of Converse shoes) wrote letters to wealthy peers to raise repair funds. Notes on the extent of repairs or decision-making are scarce. Even the minister, Rev. Victor Bigalow, had little say beyond pleading for repairs.

When the vane came down this summer to be regilded, Amy Morris found a 1931 Andover Townsman article describing the bullet hole. The gilders confirmed that such damage is common, and also noted that the vane was stainless steel — not historically correct copper as recorded in our files. We had assumed the original copper vane came from the Third Meetinghouse. Why didn’t we know this? And why was the vane changed?

The 1931 article says this vane was installed in 1920, likely during roof repairs. Why a new vane? Most likely, the original copper vane was sold for money and replaced with a larger, gilded steel version. Was there a subcommittee to explore options? No — it was simply done, like much else in those repairs. The only congregational vote was to “go ahead and fix things.” What a difference a century makes!

Thanks be to God for the leadership and dedication of staff and volunteers who made this house of worship more accessible, energy-efficient, safe, and welcoming, with a pulpit area adapted for modern worship and expanded community use. We can imagine the original 1860 architect John Stevens and builders Abbot and Clement would be pleased with this 2025 version of our Fourth Meetinghouse.



AND NOW YOU KNOW.

WHY I SERVE AS A DELEGATE

SHAPING CHURCH, SUPPORTING PASTORS, STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY

By Janet Clarke

I am a Delegate to both the Southern New England Conference of the UCC and the Northeast Association (NEA) and have been for many years.

Why do I do it?

I love meetings. I'm learning a new ecclesiastical language. Someone once said,

➤➤➤ LET'S GET SERIOUS....THERE MUST BE MORE GOING ON HERE.

I meet a lot of interesting people and working together is rewarding. I make a difference in people's lives. I learn a lot about my faith, the church, and myself. The fellowship of working and worshipping together can be lots of fun. I love the UCC - I support the wider church, and *I do go to lots of meetings!*

What do I do?

Delegates to the SNEUCC generally meet once a year to do the work of the conference, pass resolutions, the budget, and make ongoing decisions about the direction of the church. There is a Keynote Speaker, business meeting, educational breakout sessions, lunch, worship and singing. There can be a lot of fellowship time with South Church delegates, other delegates, and pastors, especially if we stay overnight in a college dorm.

Delegates to the Association can be on the Board of Directors, on the Committee on Standing, or the Committee on Discernment. They usually meet monthly. I have served on both and was chair of the committees for six years. The Association's main task is to "oversee" the pastors and the churches, kind of like a marriage, a covenant, in sickness or in health, the conference and the association are there to help. It is detailed work with a big impact on pastors, members in discernment, and the local churches.

The Committee on Standing "oversees" the ordained pastors, chaplains, and commissioned ministers who have their "standing" in the Association. You might think of it as making them "legal"—confirming their educational credentials and assuring their backgrounds are in good standing.

The Committee on Discernment "oversees", advises, and meets with members in discernment, students and discerns when and if, they are ready for ordination. I have supported many pastors, members in discernment, and the wider church to help make the church function and be a safe place.



GET TO KNOW NICOLE SIRIGNANO!

FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATOR

Nicole brings extensive experience in accounting and bookkeeping through her company, Oak Business Solutions, where she provides financial support to small and medium-sized businesses. Her experience includes working with two other UCC churches—Rowley and Newburyport—where she has aligned their financial systems and procedures, managed their payroll, and overseen all their bookkeeping and donor relations. We look forward to the stability and professional insight she'll bring to our financial operations.

What is the most daring thing you have done?

I started my own business.

What aspect of your job brings you the most satisfaction or fulfillment?

I love the sense of accomplishment and connecting with people.

A favorite quote or Bible verse:

"Bear one another's burden."

If you could be an animal which one would you be?

A bee...to make honey by visiting beautiful flowers while working with my community sounds fantastic!

What is the best gift you ever received?

A handwritten letter

What is one thing that few people know about you?

I am afraid to fly!

What song would you say sums you up?

What a Wonderful World by Louis Armstrong. I find gratitude in the simple things of life and the people in it.

What words do you try to live by?

It will all work out.



GET TO KNOW SARA DURKIN!

DIRECTOR OF THE STING CHOIR

Sara Durkin (she/her/hers) is the founder/artistic director of the Merrimack Valley Voices and the former Choral Director and Arts Department Head at North Andover High School. Her choirs have performed in top national choir events, with the United States Air Force Singing Sergeants, and at the NAFME All-Eastern Conference concert hour. Sara has served as the Co-Chair for the Massachusetts Instrumental and Choral Conductors' Association Choir Festival, on the MMEA Executive Board, the MA Northeastern District Choir manager, and actively presents at music education seminars and adjudicates local festivals. As a 2017 ACDA International Conductors' Exchange fellow, she worked with professional choirs in Montevideo, Uruguay Córdoba, Argentina. Since then she hosted both South American conductors several times and has returned to Uruguay to present workshops and concerts.

Sara is currently pursuing her Ph.D. in Music Education at University of Massachusetts Amherst. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Music Education from Providence College and her Masters and Education Specialist Degrees in Music Education from Auburn University. She lives in Andover, Massachusetts with her husband and two young children.

What is the most daring thing you have done?

I went to Uruguay and Argentina by myself as part of an international conductors exchange program in 2017.

What aspect of your job brings you the most satisfaction or fulfillment?

I love seeing the joy on people's faces when they make some really beautiful music together, knowing that together they created something bigger than themselves. It's pretty amazing!

A favorite quote or Bible verse:

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" - Philippians 4:13

If you could be an animal which one would you be?

I'd probably be a dolphin. They're friendly, social, and very family-oriented. They also communicate through sound, and since I love music, that connection feels pretty fitting!

What is the best gift you ever received?

My grandfather used to make me mixtapes of his favorite jazz songs when I was in middle school. It really opened my eyes to some great music and made me start loving jazz. His support for me and wanting me to experience the music he loved really inspired me to want to be a better musician.

What is one thing that few people know about you?

My mom was a UCC pastor before she retired in 2018.

What song would you say sums you up?

That's too hard of a question!

What words do you try to live by?

Work hard and be kind.



GET TO KNOW ADRIEN JIPPOV!

DIRECTOR OF THE WEDNESDAY NECTAR CHOIR

Adrien Jippov (he/him/his) is a Music Educator, Composer, and Drummer originally from New York City. Currently studying Composition and Film Scoring at Berklee College of Music, Adrien has extensive performance and teaching experience. With performances with Metal and Rock groups throughout Massachusetts, as well as readings and premiers of his compositions with The Geneva Music Society and The Society for New Music, Adrien has been making his way through the gigging and composer life of a musician. He has also taught private drum lessons, as well as bands and summer music classes. Adrien sees music as a language that he strives to give to all people to be able to speak.

What is the most daring thing you have done?

The most daring thing I have done is truly letting myself fall into faith as it was not something I expected.

What aspect of your job brings you the most satisfaction or fulfillment?

I'd say the intersection of music and faith and providing that to the younger generation.

A favorite quote or Bible verse:

Either Peter 5:7 "Cast all your anxiety for he cares about you," or Galatians 3:28 "There is neither Jew nor Greek neither Slave nor free, neither male nor female, for you are all one in Jesus Christ."

If you could be an animal which one would you be?

Probably a dog because they are loyal (and I really have "dog fever")

What is the best gift you ever received?

The best gift I have ever received is probably a Krypto the dog plushie my partner got me. It represented how much the new Superman and the new movie meant to me.

What is one thing that few people know about you?

Few people know that I absolutely love the intersection between faith and superheroes and am planning to write about this.

What song would you say sums you up?

The song *Transient* by Makari.

What words do you try to live by?

I try to live without hatred and resentment, so I always find myself thinking about the sermon on the mount where Jesus teaches that those who harbor resentment must find forgiveness in their hearts.



A SACRED PAUSE IN THE NEW YEAR

A WINTER WEEKEND OF PRAYER, REFLECTION, AND JOY

By Chris Ouimet

Looking ahead to the new year, the Women's Retreat Committee warmly invites you to join us January 30 – February 1 for our Annual Women's Retreat at Rolling Ridge. We'll be working with Pastor Genna to craft a meaningful theme and schedule, centering on our lives as women who care deeply about spirituality.

The weekend will offer time to pray, reflect, sing, play, laugh, and soak in the beauty of Rolling Ridge. There will be space for quiet renewal as well as opportunities for rich conversation and connection. With nourishing meals, sacred moments, and plenty of joy, the retreat promises to be a time of faith-filled sisterhood and renewal.

More details will follow this fall — but for now, save the date!



SAVE THE



DATE

NOVEMBER 8TH, 2025

MONTHLY MISSION UPDATE

THANK YOU!

International Institute
of New England
\$1,460

GLAD Law
\$1,776

More than Words
\$3,039

CARING

>>> CONDOLENCES TO

- Clara Wade on the death of her husband **David Wade**, on August 25th.

>>> WE CELEBRATE

- the birth of **Summer Grace** born to parents Tori and Brian Small.

>>> IN GRATITUDE

The SOS kids were so great! They're a huge help for the garden this year and pulled a nice harvest which I just dropped off at the Ballardvale Food Pantry. Thank you to Taylor for helping to organize! *Heather Gaspar, West Parish Garden*

Thank you for welcoming me at your service and for the generous gift which helps make it possible for us to continue our service at a time when we are facing unprecedented cuts in our federal funding. *With deep gratitude, Kate Waidler | IINE Volunteer Coordinator for Boston*

The SOS kids willingness to help during their summer makes it so much easier for us to fulfill our mission of helping local families in need. The true recipients of your kindness are our Agency Partners and the children they serve. Your contribution is truly appreciated. *Christine Cohne, Community Giving Tree*

Thank you for your donation, generosity and confidence in Direct Relief. Your support delivers critical lifesaving medicine and supplies to people facing poverty, disaster, and other hardships. *Olivia Rennacker, Direct Relief*



ALL MEMBERS ARE MINISTERS

PASTORAL STAFF

The Rev. Dana Allen Walsh, Senior Pastor
The Rev. Genevieve Hosterman, Associate Pastor
Sherry Tupper, Minister of Visitation
Cathy Meyer, Minister of Music
Taylor Graffum, Minister of Youth and Families

LAY LEADERSHIP

Dennis Fogue, Moderator
Anne Hemmer, Treasurer

SUPPORT STAFF

Nora Pelt, Communications Administrator
Andy Brien, Facilities Manager
Amy Morris, Assistant Office Administrator
Nicole Sirignano, Finance Administrator

DIRECTORS OF YOUTH CHOIRS

Michaela Barczak
Sara Durkin
Shannon Eldridge
Adrien Jippov



THE STEEPLE IS LIT IN LOVING MEMORY OF

>>> IN SEPTEMBER

John Atchinson

by his wife Deanna and family

Charles and Jennie Carey

by Lynda and Roy Paris

Our son, Hooks III

who shared his light with the world

by Susan and Hooks Johnston

Muriel S. & Edward D. White

by their daughter Carol Hopkinson

>>> IN OCTOBER

Gertrude & Fraser Colpitts and

their daughter Priscilla Colpitts Taber

by Robert F. Colpitts and Nancy Colpitts Aceti

Faith M. Look & Robert E. Look

by their daughters Linda Look & Deborah Hyde

Bruce S. Taylor

by his wife Charlotte and family

>>> IN NOVEMBER

Margaret and William Philips Foster

by their children Rachel, Bill, Karen and Cheryl

Our parents and

to honor our children and grandchildren

by Laura & Dale Lattanzio

*Please let us know if you would like to "light the steeple" in
memory of one of your loved ones.*

