

*God is still speaking,*  
**UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST**



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## Thousands of Scarves Sent to Support Old South Church's Boston Marathon Scarves Project

*Supporters from California to Maine – and even all the way from France, England and Germany donate  
to Boston church*

BOSTON, MA (April 7, 2014) – Old South Church has nearly 5,500 scarves to distribute to runners of this year's Boston Marathon during its Blessing of the Athletes services on April 20. Each scarf, knitted on behalf of the Marathon Scarf Project, will wrap runners in love, hope and prayers on the first anniversary of the Boston Marathon bombing, a day when love, hope and prayers will most certainly be needed.

"Originally, we had hoped for a few hundred," said the Rev. Nancy Taylor, senior minister of Old South Church UCC. "This project has engendered an extraordinary abundance of friendships, good will, healing, and delight in each other and each other's creations. And, not least, knitters are talkers. As needles clip and scarves lengthen, they share their lives, their stories, their fears and hopes. Out of terror: beauty."

Posts on Old South Church's social media sites indicate that scarves were shipped from nearly every state in the U.S. Other denominations, including the Episcopal Church, the Methodists and the Baptists, participated as well. The number of scarves arriving at Old South Church grew rapidly every day – 75 scarves on March 14, 700 on March 27, 1,263 on March 31, 3,206 on April 3, to a grand total of 5,357 on Saturday, April 5, the project's soft deadline. Taylor still expects more scarves will arrive in the coming days.

The Marathon Scarf Project is one of several ways Old South Church will recognize the bombing's first anniversary. On April 8, the church conducted a memorial installation of the blue and gold banners that overlooked the marathon's finish line the day of the bombing, as well as the peace cranes that were delivered to Old South Church from Newtown (Conn.) Congregational Church in the bombing's aftermath. These items will be displayed until April 22. On April 15, the church will hold a service of Remembrance and Hope with music, prayers, readings and reflection.

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### **About the United Church of Christ**

The United Church of Christ (UCC) is a mainline Protestant denomination with nearly 1 million members and more than 5,100 congregations nationwide, including more than 150 UCC congregations throughout North Carolina.

Headquartered in Cleveland, Ohio, the UCC is a church of many firsts, including the first mainline denomination to ordain a woman, the first to ordain an openly gay man and the first predominantly white denomination to ordain an African American. The UCC's motto ("That they may all be one," (John 17:21)) and tagline (God is still speaking,) supports the Church's long-standing commitment to social justice issues and its extravagant welcome to all, no matter who they are, or where they are on life's journey.

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