

SOUTHSIDE FELLOWSHIP

Creating brave spaces that nurture and inspire the human spirit

A Back to School Blessing

August 10th, 2025

"Books are door-shaped portals
carrying me across oceans and centuries,
helping me feel less alone."
from *Tula*, by Margarita Engle



GATHERING

Welcome

Centering music

Call to Worship Sirach 1:1-10 & Psalm 119

Hymn When at Creation's Dawn **VT 121**

LISTENING FOR THE WORD

The Poet's Word When I Heard the Learn'd Astronomer
by Walt Whitman

Hymn Ask the Complicated Questions **VT 440**

Scripture The Infancy Gospel of Thomas 15 / Luke 2:41-47, 51-52

Sermon Jesus' School Days David Moser

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Hymn There Is In Every Person **VT 751**

Offering

Blessing for Students and Teachers on reverse

Sharing our lives and our prayers

Praying in the Way of Jesus

THE WORD IN THE WORLD

Hymn Thy Word is a Lamp Unto My Feet **VT 398**

Benediction

Artwork above:
Johnson Tsang , Cross My Mind, 2020
Porcelain, fake grass and trees.

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*Southside Fellowship is an inclusive Anabaptist/Mennonite congregation that understands faith as a journey. At the core of our community is the boundless love of God, the justice-centered life of Jesus, and the mystery of the Spirit. We welcome all people to join us, including those who have been excluded elsewhere because of gender identity, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, ability, economic status, marital status, age, or religious uncertainty.*