



March 11 Edition

A Reflection from Sean

Luke 10:25-29

On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" "What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?" He answered, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind; and Love your neighbor as yourself. You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live." But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

"Who is my Neighbor"

I am a big guy. 6' 2" and 220lbs. I don't think of myself as a big guy and often take pause when my size is mentioned. I just don't think about it ... well except when on airplanes ... then I think about how small the space is when my knees are up against the seat before me and I am trying not to take up too much space of my neighbors.

When I am walking to my car at night I give no thought to how my bodily appearance could be a deterrent from someone attacking me. I don't think about how I move easily through crowds, how I am seen and recognized, or the power that is assumed that I have because of my size. The same could be said about me being white and male and handsomely bald. Rarely do I realize what is assumed about me that gives me an easier path forward in life. This is the water I swim in, the air I breathe and it often goes unnoticed.

Last year Richard Demsick, a former pastor posted a video of himself on TikTok that showed him as a white man running shirtless, with his hat on backward and a flat panel TV under his arm. He ran for two miles in his neighborhood in Florida that had had a string of burglaries and no one stopped him, asked him what he was up to, or called the police. He did this to remember Ahmaud Arbery who was a young black man jogging in a neighborhood and was murdered because it was assumed he was a criminal. Demsick poignantly demonstrated the water that we swim in, the air that we breathe, the assumptions about race that are so easily held we don't even notice them. They are so

systemic that for us they are a part of the background. It is even more difficult to see systemic assumptions that favor us living in one of the most racially homogeneous states in our nation. We are unaware and it can be difficult to see other people's experiences.

Lent is a time for us to listen. Really listen. Not listen and get defensive, or paralyzed by guilt, or threatened, or to do battle, or defend our group but listen with the heart of God, with the compassion of Jesus Christ. Let us feel the pain of others, see what we have been missing, let our assumptions be challenged and transformed, and move forward with people of color to affect the change that is so desperately needed. This is the time for us to become aware through conversations, study, watching videos, stepping outside our comfort zones, and recognize our part in an unjust system and our knowing or unknowing complicity in it. This is something that we need to be a part of beyond the news and attention of the moment. It is a way of our spiritual discipline to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind"; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself. and to ask, "Who is my neighbor?"

Pastor Sean

Church Events and Activities



Zoom a Friend Worship

March 14 at 9:00 a.m.

What is the best kept secret on the internet? South Church's worship service of course! We have an amazing gathered community every Sunday with inspiring music, supportive prayers, call to action,

and an encouraging sermon; why not share it with someone? One of the advantages to online worship is the ease of which we can invite someone to join us for worship. It is just a matter of making a phone call to a friend and sharing the church's website link with them.

Zoom a friend to worship on March 14! During our welcome and announcements we will ask for people to share in the chat box where they are from and celebrate who is the closest to the physical church building and who is the farthest away. The worship that Sunday will focus on commemorating the Bead Tapestry Project and remembering those who have passed on in NH due to COVID 19. Let's grow our church and share its gift to the world!

Chit Chat

March 15 at 10:00 a.m.

Let's catch up . . . grab a cup of coffee or tea and maybe a special treat. Spend an hour catching up with Alison. We will be live via **Zoom**. You don't have to **register** for this event, but if you do it will be helpful to know who to expect.



By The Poet's Light

Every Third
Thursday
7:00 PM

By the Poet's Light

March 18 at 7:00 p.m.

Join Sean Dunker-Bendigo on **Thursday, March 18** from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and continuing the third Thursday of every month, for *By The Poet's Light*. Each month we will read and discuss powerful poems related to change, vision, and new beginnings. Join the [Zoom](#) meeting.



Join Us Outdoors

March 21 at 2:00 p.m.

You have the opportunity to get out into nature and see fellow South Churchers at Gould Hill in Hopkinton on **March 21** at 2:00 p.m. Bring your snowshoes or crampons. For more information, contact [Lorens Jorgensen](#)



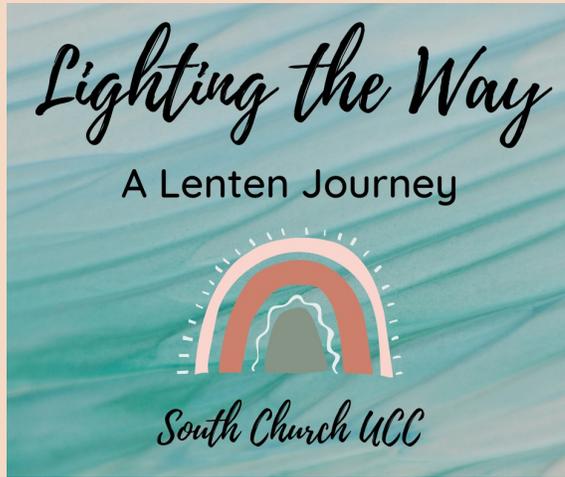
Palm Sunday

March 28 at 9:00 a.m.

Who Do you Say I Am? Our Passion play will lead us through Holy Week and reflect on the question Jesus asked his disciples: *Who Do you Say I Am?* We will begin the service on the streets of Jerusalem, cheering and waving our palms for Jesus' arrival. Along the way,

we meet a disciple; Bartimaeus; Claudia; Mary Magdalene; and Matthias. The disciple reflects upon Jesus' life and concludes Jesus is our rock. Bartimaeus relives his life-changing encounter with Jesus. Claudia shares her nightmare that came with a message. Mary Magdalene discovers the empty tomb and finds that Jesus has risen. And

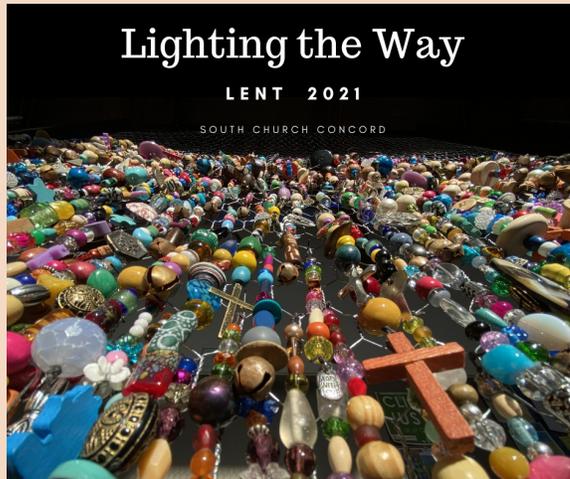
Matthias is no longer an observer, but an obedient fisher of people. We will use scripture, music and drama to tell this powerful story.



Holy Week

March 28 to April 4

Our journey through Lent is almost over and Holy Week is upon us. We are still operating under stay-at-home orders: we will gather and worship through online platforms. We have planned a series of creative worship gatherings and self guided opportunities for all of us. Please click [here](#) for the entire list.



Lighting the Way

Prayer Journey: This Lent we will open the Sanctuary on Thursdays from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Individuals or one family will be given 30 minutes to be in the Sanctuary to pray; embrace the Lenten season; and enjoy the warmth of being in the space. **If you are interested in being in the Sanctuary this Lenten season, you will need to register. Sign up [here](#).**

Labyrinth Walk: The Labyrinth will be available for the next three weeks from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. There will be one person or one family at a time in the Fellowship Hall and you will be given 30 minutes to walk the labyrinth and pray. **If you are interested in walking the Labyrinth this Lenten season, you will need to register. Click on the week you would like to participate in:**

[Labyrinth Walk Week 1](#)

[Labyrinth Walk Week 2](#)

[Labyrinth Walk Week 3](#)

Outdoor Labyrinth Walk: The Church of the Woods in Canterbury's labyrinth will be available on **Saturday, March 27** from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Small groups will be given 20 minutes to walk the labyrinth, pray and embrace the natural world around us. **If you are interested this walking the outdoor labyrinth, you will need to register. Sign up [here](#).**

Continuing Conversations

Join Sean Dunker-Bendigo every



Wednesday from 8:00 a.m to 9:00 a.m. for conversation and connection. Grab a coffee, tea or beverage and join the conversation. Drop-in; stay awhile; or pop in just to say hello and run. A free-flowing format with laughter, seriousness, creativity, dreaming, and everything in between. Join the [Zoom](#) meeting.

Ministries



the conscious kid

Mission of the Month

South Church's newly coalesced group on racial justice is sparking conversations in our congregation. The Faith in Action Ministry wants to help. March's monthly mission offering and a portion of our FIA budget will go to two organizations, *The Conscious Kid*, a nonprofit providing children's books to support conversations on race, racism, and resistance, and the *Equal Justice Initiative*, which fights against mass incarceration, excessive

punishment, and racial inequality. Its founder, Bryan Stephenson, is the widely acclaimed public interest lawyer and bestselling author of *Just Mercy*. Donate [here](#).



Interim News

Keep an eye on this column in the coming weeks. Pastor Sean will use it to keep South Church updated on events and initiatives around our interim ministry work. We are finalizing a Vision and Transition Team that will meet in the coming weeks. The team will advise and assist in programs that will help South

Church explore its future vision, calling, and ministry needs. It will meet on average once a month and will help the congregation establish its vision for the future and actions we need to take to get there.

Here is where we need your help. We need to hear from you, each of you, no matter how long you have been a part of South Church or how involved you are in the church. In the coming months, you will have multiple opportunities to share your thoughts and dreams

with each other and the process works best with everyone participating. Be on the lookout for upcoming events. We look forward to our conversations and what will emerge by the Spirit's guidance from them. This is an exciting moment in the life of South Church.

Church Community



The #GetMovin' 184 Challenge

This year South Congregational Church turns 184 years old, and while the number itself is not particularly significant, the year just ending has been one of most extraordinary in our lifetimes. The time is ripe to take our motto, *Radical Hope, Extravagant Love* in brand new directions! The **#Get Movin'184**

Challenge will help us do just that. (This is the event formerly known as South Church Move-a-thon.)

The Scoop

The Get Movin'184 Challenge is a fundraiser and a friendraiser taking place during the week of May 28-June 4. We will be raising money to support South Church missions AND giving a portion of what we raise to another community outreach program (to be announced). We also encourage participants from South Church to recruit friends who are non-members as participants or sponsors or both.

How It Works

- Choose any activity of your choice to engage in during the week of May 28 - June 4
- Choose for yourself a challenge that incorporates each of the numbers 1, 8 and 4 in it (for example: 14.8 total miles run over the course of the seven day period; 1.84 miles walked each day for 7 days; 184 laps around your garden; 481 scales on your flute; anything goes!)
- Register online to join a team (team categories thus far include: Walking Team, Running Team, Electric Bike Team, Bike Team, Motorcycle Team, Golf Team, Swim Team and Freestyle Team (for varied and creative individual activities). Registration fees and other details will be available soon on the church website.
- Sign up as many sponsors as you can.
- Invite friends to join you as participants, sponsors or both.

Stay tuned for more details

Family Faces in the Pews

Here's the story of how some South Church family faces appeared in the pews. A member of the congregation heard about a similar project elsewhere. She shared the idea with 3 South Church friends. All agreed, Jed and Sean minister tirelessly to us all. And surprising them with a "congregation" in the pews seemed the least we could do. One member of the group knew a printer who created posters from photos. Another contacted a staff member

in the church office, shared the planned surprise and asked if a random variety of members' photos from the Directory could be shared for this purpose. That staff member volunteered their time to select and send the photos to make this surprise possible. The group members placed the photos in the pews just before Sunday. Seeing the pleasure that peoples' faces in the pews gave to Jed and Sean was wonderful!



Study & Pray

Bible Study ~ On **Tuesday, March 2** from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. the Tuesday Night Bible Study will continue reading the Book of Proverbs. All are welcome to join, whether to take part in reading or to simply listen to God's word. Please contact [JoAnne](#) if you are interested in joining the bible study and she will send you the Zoom link.

Gathering for Prayer ~

Morning Prayer 7:30 a.m. to 8 a.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays.
Click [here](#) to join.

Evening Prayer 7:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Mondays and Tuesdays.
Click [here](#) to join.

Easter Flowers



Your donation of \$15.00 to celebrate or remember a loved one, will decorate our Sanctuary. Your donation will be recognized in the Easter Sunday bulletin. Please complete this [form](#), and return it to the church office no later than March 21. Make checks payable to South Church with "Flower Fund" noted on the memo line. Please [email](#) the information as you would like it to appear in the Easter Bulletin. There are also order forms in the side entry of the church.



Texting Announcements

South Church now has the ability to send you text announcements and reminders through Flocknote. This service was developed specifically for churches to be in communication with their congregations. If you would like to receive information about church events, cancellations, or reminders you can sign up by going to the

church website and scrolling down to the bottom and filling out the simple [form](#) on the website. We envision a frequency of a text or two a week as a reminder of upcoming events. This service will work on any mobile phone with a texting plan. We look forward to using this more direct means of communication to keep you informed with the exciting events happening at South Church. Your information will be used by only South Church and you can cancel at any time by texting the word STOP. If you have any questions don't hesitate to contact the church office.

A Shout Out for Talent Show Contestants!

Showcase your special talent for a great cause!

Concord Coalition to End Homelessness Talent Show Fundraiser!

We are recruiting performers of all types to participate in our 2nd Annual Talent Show. Individuals interested in competing should visit www.concordhomeless.org/talent-show to view the contest rules and apply to perform.

Deadline for submitting is **April 1st**. The Talent Show Fundraiser will be held **May 1st** at the Bank of NH Stage on Main Street in Concord, NH. This is your chance to be a STAR!

A Shout Out for Talent

Concord Coalition to End Homelessness is hosting a Talent Show Fundraiser on **May 1** at the Bank of NH Stage on Main Street in Concord. They are recruiting performers of all types to participate in their 2nd Annual Talent Show. Individuals interested in competing should visit the [website](#) to view the contest rules.

For more information click [here](#).

The deadline is April 1 to apply to perform.



March Birthdays

We want to wish our members who have March Birthdays

"A Very Happy Birthday!!"

If we missed your birthday that means it wasn't in the directory; so please send it to [Peg Wenzel](#).

March 3

Chip Cilley

March 4

Wit Jones

March 5

Doug Benoit, Will Delker
and Helen Porter

March 6

Chip Morgan

March 8

Heather Lord and
Gabriel Waldron

March 10

Adria Cilley and Julianna Gullage

March 12

Dylan Burbank, Ellen Fries
and Anne Tyrol

March 14

Abigail Smart

March 15

Kathy Connors

March 18

Norma Angwin

March 19

Oliver Babladelis and Frank Bourn

March 20

Jodi Simonton

March 21

Deanne Pelletier

March 22

Susan Hatem and
Michael Reynolds

March 24

Colby Nyhan

March 25

Chloe Sahr

March 26

Carlene Ruesenberg

March 27

Emma Bradley and
Gretchen Hildebrand

March 28

Tracy Coen, David Fries
and Hollis Gesen

March 29

Bruce Hodges

March 30

Sally Bird

March 31

Helen Fitzgerald

Prayers

Please keep the following people in your thoughts and prayers...



For the 500,000 + that have lost their lives to Covid and the loved ones they have left behind.

All those who are on the front lines of health care.

For those struggling with economic hardships.

For those struggling with isolation and physical distancing.

We give thanks for connecting with family and friends across distances.

We give thanks for new discoveries in our self and others.

Bill Murdoch, who had heart bypass surgery.

Carlene's father Harry Roberson, who is in hospice care.

Deb Lincoln, who had knee surgery Friday.

Peter England, whose Grandmother died recently.

If you would like the congregation to pray for someone and be added to our prayer list, please contact [Lou-Ann Poirier](#). She will also make Jed aware of your prayers.

The Office Hours for entering the building are

Tuesdays 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Thursdays 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

However, if you need to enter the building, please call the office to let them know you will be arriving and please wear a mask and use hand sanitize.

South Congregational Church | 27 Pleasant Street, Concord, NH 03301

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