

# Walking Through The Shadows

Together

March 15th, 2026



South Congregational Church, UCC

27 Pleasant Street • Concord, NH • 03301

(603)224-2521

*Welcome to South Congregational Church, United Church of Christ! Whoever you are, whatever your faith tradition, whatever creed you profess, whatever your age, ability, race, sexual orientation or gender expression: You are welcome here!*

## ***Worship Service for March 15th, 2026***

*\*Please stand in body or spirit*

### WORDS OF WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*Austria* (arr. Martha Lynn Thompson)

Memorial Bells

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Ellen Fries

One: People of God, how are you doing today?

All: (silence)

One: Community of Christ, how do your spirits fare?

All: **There are too many answers to these questions. Too many concerns among us, and too many answers within each of us.**

One: Beloved of God, welcome to worship. Come, let us bring all of our answers into this time of sacred gathering;

All: **Let us remember that God hears and knows all of our answers before we have even named them.**

One: God is with us, guiding and loving us through this time.

All: **God is with us, inviting us to be together in hope and faith. Come, let us worship.**

\*OPENING HYMN

*God Is My Shepherd*

NCH #479

\*UNISON PRAYER based on Psalm 23

**Loving God, we know you shepherd us; you have given us all we need. You lead us into peaceful places and give us rest and renewal for our bodies and spirits; you quench our deep thirsts. You guide us along the way, and remind us that we are yours.**

**Even though we are living in very dark times, and we are journeying through the shadows of war and broken spirits, you invite us not to fear; you remind us that we are accompanied by your love and compassion, and we**

**find great comfort in this. Even in the midst of struggle, you provide abundant nourishment, and remind us of your claim on us as precious. We recognize the privilege in this, and at times feel overwhelmed by your blessings. We know that your goodness and mercy follow us all our days, and that we will always live in your love. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*(After the Children's Message, children are invited to go to Sunday School downstairs.)*

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

May the Peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

CHORAL ANTHEM      *Beautiful City* (arr. Mac Huff)

GIVING WITH GRATITUDE      Marty Jenkins

SCRIPTURE READING    John 9:1-41(p. 871-2)      Ellen Fries

SERMON      *Walking Through the Shadows Together*  
Rev. Dr. Beth Donaldson

\*HYMN      *God of Grace and God of Glory*      NCH #436

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father-Mother in Heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

OFFERTORY      *Breathe On Me, Breath of God*  
(arr. Jason W. King)      Memorial Bells

\*SUNG DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;**

**Praise God all creatures here below;  
Praise God for all that love has done;  
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, one. Amen.**

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*HYMN

*Precious Lord, Take My Hand*

NCH #472

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*All the Things You Are* (Hammerstein & Kern)

Mike Annicchiarico, pianist

**Transitional Minister:** Rev. Dr. Beth Donaldson  
**Pianist:** Abigail Charbeneau  
**Music Director:** Sue Berlenbach  
**Christian Education Director:** Julia Wagner  
**Memorial Bells Director:** Carlene Ruesenberg  
**Livestream Technician:** Walton Irvine  
**Sexton:** Walton Irvine

**Today's Participants:**  
**Lay Leader:** Ellen Fries  
**Ushers:** Ann Walls and Norma Angwin  
**Worship & Spiritual Life Rep:** Adria Cilley  
**Collections & Deposits:** Adria Cilley and Laura Landry  
**Assistive Listening:** Janet Zeller  
**Guest Pianist:** Mike Annicchiarico

**IMPORTANT INFO FOR ASSISTIVE LISTENING USERS:**

**Please use our new Wi-Fi connection: Netgear47**

**Password (all lower-case letters): sweetwater840**

**REMINDER: When using your hearing aids with the "Listen WiFi" phone app:**

Some phones work best with the volume on both your Phone & your Hearing Aids turned all the way Up. Other phones work best with your Phone turned all the way Up & your Hearing Aids turned all the way Down.

**Need Help?** Please speak to the Assistive Listening Assistant at the back of the sanctuary.



Flowers this week are kindly donated by Roger and Linda Gray  
*"In Celebration of our 56<sup>th</sup> Anniversary."*

## **Announcements – March 15th, 2026**

**MOMENT FOR MISSION:** The Faith in Action Ministry (FIA) has chosen One Great Hour of Sharing as March's Moment for Mission. The United Church of Christ, in collaboration with international partners, provides sources of clean water, food, education, healthcare, small business credit, advocacy, agricultural development, and resettlement for refugees. Please see the green bulletin insert for more information. Donations can be made using the white envelopes in the pews or through our online giving portal. Memo as: Moment For Mission. Thank you!

### ***THIS WEEK AT SOUTH CHURCH***

- Mon, March 16th:** Search Committee, 5:30pm  
**Wed, March 18th:** Morning Prayer Group (Zoom), 8:00am  
Worship & Spiritual Life, 3:30pm  
Faith Formation, 5:30pm  
Faith, Fellowship & Membership, 6:00pm  
**Thurs, March 19th:** Staff Meeting, 10:00am  
Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 7:00pm  
**Fri, March 20th:** Music Team Meeting, 1:00pm  
**Sun, March 22nd:** Worship Service, 10:00am (5th Sunday of Lent)  
Sacred Conversations (Chapel), 11:30am  
Youth Group, 7:00pm

### ***UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES***

#### **SHARING/LISTENING GROUPS (Sacred Conversations)**

Each Sunday after worship (11:30am) throughout Lent, Pastor Beth is offering us space and time to share and reflect on these last few years: all the losses and transitions experienced as a congregation, as well as some hopes and joys in looking forward. Please let us know you will be attending by signing up at: <https://tinyurl.com/SCCsacredconvo>

#### **SOUTH CHURCH'S ANNUAL FINANCIAL PLEDGE DRIVE IS**

**UNDERWAY!** Our theme this year is "Giving From Gratitude." Pledges sustain South Church for the upcoming fiscal year, which this year runs from July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027. The drive ends March 22nd. Please notify the church if you have not received a pledge card and wish to participate. Pledge cards are also available in the pews. We are grateful to you!

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR HOLY WEEK!** Maundy Thursday service will be held at 7:00 p.m. on April 2<sup>nd</sup>; a Good Friday service will be held on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Both will be in the sanctuary. If you would like to be a reader for one or both of these services, please let Pastor Beth know.

**GENESIS CIRCLE** will meet on Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 12:00pm in Classroom 6. Bring your own lunch. The speaker will be Rev. Kate Morse, Chaplain at Concord Hospital.

**CONTEMPLATION AND MINDFULNESS WITH WISDOM WAY** Wisdom Way is a monthly gathering of those seeking respite from today's fast-paced, noisy world. Each gathering offers time for contemplative silence, individual practice (mindful walking, journaling, etc.), and discussion of a topic relating to our spiritual growth. Wisdom Way meets every fourth Friday from 10am-11:30am in the South Church Library (downstairs). Please note: the next gathering has been moved to Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> (Good Friday). The topic will be: "Pondering the Mystery of Forgiveness." The walking labyrinth will be available in Fellowship Hall.

**SERVING MEALS WITH THE FRIENDLY KITCHEN** On the first Saturday of each month, South Church prepares and serves a wholesome meal at The Friendly Kitchen to all who are hungry, and we would love to have more congregants join us in this outreach ministry. Preparing food is a fun way of living God's message and getting to know other church members. A sign-up sheet will be on the Faith in Action bulletin board in Fellowship Hall, or you can contact Ginny Mierins directly by email: [giniakay1@gmail.com](mailto:giniakay1@gmail.com).

**SAFE CHURCH TRAININGS FOR YOUTH PROGRAM VOLUNTEERS** South Church is offering Safe Church Trainings on the first Sunday of each month from now through June. These sessions are required for anyone volunteering with our youth programs. Trainings will be held at 9:00 AM and last approximately 30-45 minutes. If you feel called to support our children and youth, we'd love to have you join us.

### ***ROUND THE COMMUNITY***

**PHOTO EXHIBIT: DIFFERENT ROOTS, COMMON DREAMS** Becky Field's color photographs of NH's immigrant communities will be on display in the Williamson Gallery, 4th floor, Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center, Lebanon, NH, from now through Mar 31.

**LENTEN LUNCHEON SERIES** The Greater Concord Interfaith Council invites you to share a meal and fellowship for their Lenten Speaker Series. Each Thursday in March, a different speaker will share how faith has impacted their work, volunteer activities, or other aspects of their lives. The next speaker (Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup> from 12:00pm-1:00pm) will be South Church's own Becky Field! She will present "Welcoming All: New Hampshire's Immigrant Communities" at Bow Mills United Methodist Church in Bow, NH. No reservation needed. Cost: \$7.00/person. Proceeds will be donated to area nonprofit organizations.

**SOUPERFEST SATURDAY AT THE HORTON CENTER** On Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, Horton Center friends and families—new and returning—are welcome to join us for homemade soups and camp fun at Havenwood Heritage Height's Tad's Place in Concord, NH. Learn more about camp, play fun games, sing some classic camp songs, and enjoy a delicious meal. Swing by any time between 12pm and 3pm. This event is FREE for everyone! RSVP at [tinyurl.com/soupersaturday26](http://tinyurl.com/soupersaturday26) to receive your tickets, which you'll turn in upon arrival to be entered into our raffle! Questions? Email Tivvi: [TPare@nhcucc.org](mailto:TPare@nhcucc.org)

**CONCORD FEMALE CHARITABLE SOCIETY ANNUAL DINNER** The Concord Female Charitable Society (CFCS) will host its annual members' dinner on Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup> at Alan's Restaurant in Boscawen, NH. Doors open at 5:00pm; dinner will be served at 5:30pm. Not a member? Women may support the CFCS at \$1.00/year or \$10.00 for a lifetime membership; men may be contributors for the same amount. To learn more about CFCS, to donate, or to reserve a ticket (\$25 per person), please contact one of the representatives from South Church: Sara Willingham, Cheryl Nickerson, or Eileen Jones.

**Thrive Survivor Support Center will hold its 4TH ANNUAL RESILIENCE BREAKFAST** on Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup>. Come enjoy a wonderful breakfast surrounded by community supporters and friends while learning more about what Thrive is doing to support survivors of violence and abuse in our communities. For more information or to register, please contact event organizer Martha at [martha@thrivenh.org](mailto:martha@thrivenh.org).

## **CHURCH LIFE**

**DO YOU HAVE TECH SKILLS?** We are looking for people who can work with Walt and be available to help with our technology (sound, livestreaming) for worship and other events. If you are interested, please let the office know.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES** Do you enjoy spending time with kids and helping them grow in their faith? We're looking for Sunday School teachers, nursery attendants, and youth group advisors to join our amazing team! Please contact Julia Wagner at [cedirector@southchurchconcord.org](mailto:cedirector@southchurchconcord.org). Thank you for supporting the next generation of our church family!

**E-LATION UPDATE** Please have submissions to the next edition of our monthly newsletter in by the 20<sup>th</sup>. If you need more time, let the office know and we will hold some space. Hard copies of the newsletter are available by contacting the office.

**VOLUNTEER AS AN USHER OR LAY LEADER!** The 2026 signup sheet for worship volunteers is now live at <https://volunteersignup.org/F48LL>

**PASTORAL CARE** If you have a death in the family, a sudden hospitalization or other significant life crisis, please call or text the pastor at 612-554-9946. If you or someone you know is experiencing a transition in life and would like a visit with one of our trained Lay Ministry Volunteers, please leave a message at the office (603-224-2521) or give Toni Callahan a call. Her number can be found in the Church Directory.

**PRAYER REQUESTS** If you have Prayer Requests, please fill out the yellow bookmarks in the pews and place them in the basket on the Altar.

**ALTAR FLOWERS** If you would like to contribute to worship by purchasing a flower arrangement for the Altar, please contact Linda Gray at [RevLinGray@yahoo.com](mailto:RevLinGray@yahoo.com) to choose a date.

**VIRTUAL OFFERING PLATE** To make an online donation, please use the "Donate" button on the front page of our website ([www.southchurchconcord.org](http://www.southchurchconcord.org)) to reach the current donation link, or mail/drop off a check at the office. Thank you for your continued generosity!