



Where
Storms
and
Stillness
Meet

August 9th
2026

South
Congregational
Church, UCC

27 Pleasant St
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 August 9th, 2026

**Please stand in body or spirit*

WORDS OF WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *Forever by Chris Tomlin* Sue Berlenbach, piano
 (arr. Bryce Inman)

*CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 85, responsively NCH p. 676

*OPENING HYMN *Sekai no Tomo* NCH #72
(Here, O God, Your Servants Gather)

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION Betsy Clardy

Loving God, we are not always brave enough to step into the rough waters of our times. Our faith calls us to seek justice for the poor and oppressed, and we want to respond, but we fear being overwhelmed by the waves of conflict that rise and fall all around us. We want to embrace the challenge of lifting our prophetic voices against the evils of our day, but we know that doing so means stepping out of the safety of the moment and risking some of our own peace. You have called us to radical love and the kind of righteousness that holds fast to the dignity of all your children, and to the call to be in communion with all. We are often afraid to step out with courage. We are often unsure of our capacity to hold center and make a difference.

Help us to step out of our comfort; help us to acknowledge the gifts of relative peace and plenty that we know; help us to be

willing to name evil and to work for justice. Forgive us our fear and doubt, we pray. Amen.

*WORDS OF ASSURANCE

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

MUSICAL OFFERING

Liz MacLellan, guitar

SCRIPTURE READINGS I Kings 19:9-18 (pg. 284) Betsy Clardy
 Matthew 14:22-33 (pg. 796)

SERMON

Where Storm & Stillness Meet

Rev. Dr. Beth Donaldson

*HYMN

Dear God, Embracing Humankind

NCH #502

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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

(Please take a moment to sign our Fellowship Pads and pass them along to others in your pew.)

*SUNG RESPONSE

**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 *We Are Often Tossed and Driven* NCH #444

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *How Great is Our Lord* Sue Berlenbach, piano
(Jesse Reeves, Chris Tomlin, and Ed Cash;
arr. Bryce Inman)

Transitional Minister: Rev. Dr. Beth Donaldson

Pianist: Abigail Charbeneau

Music Director: Sue Berlenbach

Christian Education Director: Julia Grice

Memorial Bells Director: Carlene Ruesenberg

Livestream Technician: Walton Irvine

Today's Participants:

Lay Leader: Betsy Clardy

Ushers: Sally Bird and Sheryl Walton

Worship & Spiritual Life: Bonnie Ota

Collections & Deposits: Adria Cilley and Christine Frost

Assistive Listening: Janet Zeller

Guest Musicians: Liz MacLellan, guitar

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 kindly come from the garden of Bonnie Ota

Announcements – August 9th, 2026

WELCOME TO SOUTH CHURCH — We're so glad you are here!

Whether you are a new or returning face, we would love to connect with you. In the pews, you will find folders in which to share your name and any contact information you would like us to have. We would love to be able to follow up with you if you desire so. We hope you find worship here meaningful and renewing. Welcome.

AUGUST MOMENT FOR MISSION Faith in Action has chosen the **Horton Center** as the Moment for Mission for August. Located in the spectacular White Mountains, the Horton Center is more than just a camp: **It's a place where you can connect with nature, with God, and with yourself.** It's a place where you can explore your faith in a supportive and inclusive community; where you can have fun, make memories, and grow as a person. Please give generously as you are able.

HIROSHIMA & NAGASAKI REMEMBRANCE: Please join us after worship today (noon) to remember the needless mass murder which took place in Japan in 1945 and to rededicate ourselves to working for a more peaceful and just future for all. We will meet at the shore of the **Merrimack River at 15 Loudon Road, Concord (beside Everett Arena)** to read the names of some of the people killed in the bombings as we lay flowers in the river. **You may want to bring some cut flowers, your singing voice, a snack, and/or a chair.** Park behind Everett Arena, towards the front left side of the big parking lot, as one drives into the parking lot. There's a small grassy area right before the boat launch. *(Sponsored by New Hampshire Peace Action)*

THIS WEEK AT SOUTH CHURCH

Sunday, August 9th (today) *Service of Closure for Michelle Decoste –
Covenantal Minister at Havenwood, Heritage Heights, 3:00pm*

Wednesday, August 12th: Morning Prayer Group (Zoom), 8:00am
Staff Meeting, 10:00am
Membership & Fellowship Directory
Meeting, 12:30pm

	Lay Ministers, 4:00pm
Thursday, August 13th:	Faith in Action (Zoom), 6:30pm
Sunday, August 16th:	Worship (Sanctuary), 9:00am

MEMBERSHIP CLASS If you are interested in becoming a member of South Church, please let Beth know. We would like to have a membership class (with no obligation to join) in the near future.

ONGOING AND UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP CREATION CARE SCORECARD You will find in the Fellowship Hall a “Scorecard” suggesting a variety of ways to engage in caring for our created world. We are hoping this will inspire each of us to pay closer attention to how we are moving through our days, and to amplify our efforts as a community to be good stewards together. All are invited to add their name and put a checkmark next to their contributions.

FACES OF SOUTH CHURCH: SUMMERTIME With special thanks to Diana Zeller-Norris, we invite members and friends to send in photographs of summer fun, adventures, peaceful moments, time with family, or anything that captures the story of your summer in a small or large way. Between now and **September 4th**, drop off your photos in the office - there is a special bin on the counter - or send them digitally to office@southchurchconcord.org. Photos will be posted to our bulletin board for Rally Day in mid-September.

SOUTH CHURCH BOOK SALE SEPTEMBER 19 The deadline for bringing in your donations is September 1. Tell your friends and neighbors! Sign up on the Fellowship Hall Book Sale Bulletin Board to help the day before or of the sale. Thank you to all who have volunteered by preparing book-themed crafts, transporting and sorting donations, hosting lawn signs and distributing Sale flyers. Let’s keep working together to make this a welcoming event and successful fundraiser!

HEARING IN WORSHIP Part of making South Church accessible to all is making worship *audible* to all. **If you’re comfortable using a smart phone and pairing it, you’re already 99% ready to be an Assistive**

Listening volunteer. Commitment is the occasional Sunday. Please reach out to the office or Assistive Listening Technicians Janet Zeller or Sue Marcotte-Jenkins to learn more.

UCC ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE WEBINAR “Can Advocacy with Congress Still Accomplish Anything?” will take place **Wednesday, August 12 at 1 PM**. The speaker will be Sam Daley-Harris, who created the Citizen’s Climate Lobby and (with Rev. Dr. Brooks Berndt) our own UCC Climate HOPE Affiliates! Please contact Sue Moore to register.

CHURCH LIFE

FELLOWSHIP PADS Please consider signing in when you come to worship. These help our pastoral staff have contact information for visitors, and to better notice when someone has been missing in order to be able to follow up. There is a pad at the left end of each pew. Please sign and pass them to the right. Thank you.

ONE WORD VIDEOS Beth will be milling among you with her camera phone after worship today, asking you each to share one word about what you love about South Church. Be creative. We are putting together a video for our website.

ORGAN REPAIR UPDATE We are working with Andover Organ Co. to assess and plan the repair of our organ. There are multiple options for the extent of repair, and we will share updates as we are able to. Thank you for your patience.

PRAYER REQUESTS If you have joys or concerns to share, our ushers will be passing around a microphone during the service. To share a concern with our Lay Ministers, please fill out the orange slip in your pews and put it in the offering plate.

POSTCARDS FROM “CANOE CAPTAIN ERIC” at HORTON CENTER We signed up to be pen pals with a camp counselor at the Horton Center and have received a few postcards from him. Please take a look at them when you have a chance—they are on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. Our thanks to the folks who have sent him cards!

UPDATE FROM THE PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

Since our last update, the South Church Search Committee continues to meet and evaluate the procedures for selecting a settled minister. We have received and reviewed several comments from the congregation. As we move forward in this process, we will continue to keep you posted. As always, we welcome your questions and feedback.

Will Delker, Gail Desjardins, Becky Field, David Fries (co-chair), Emily Geoghegan (co-chair), Wayne Martin, Craig Sargent, Cheryl Simmers, and Jonathan Stallsmith

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

PLEDGE ENVELOPES This year's pledge envelopes are available in the Fellowship Hall, outside the Sanctuary, in the back of the Sanctuary, and in the office. Please drop by to pick up yours, or email or call the office to request that we mail one to you.

VIRTUAL OFFERING PLATE To make an online donation, please use the Donate button on the front page of our website (www.southchurchconcord.org) or scan the QR code (right). You may also mail/drop off a check at the office. Thank you for supporting South Church!



Please be aware that **Beth will be away from August 26 to September 8**. She will be in Florida the first week, helping to organize and lead a memorial service for her father's wife; and she hopes to be able to go to Pennsylvania for the second week.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

INTERIM CUSTODIAL NEEDS With the departure of Walt as our Sexton, we will need help with the custodial needs of the church as we search for his replacement. The following is a list of basic tasks that we would like to be sure continue to be done:

- Put trash out for weekly pickup
- Vacuum, dust, mop
- Help set up and take down tables and chairs for special events
- Alert Buildings & Grounds Committee of any needed repairs
- Clean and stock bathrooms
- Mow/weed-whack

If you are able to help out, please let the office know, and we will gladly accept your offer of time and talent. Thank you so much: We are stronger together and, as they say, many hands make light work.

CHRISTIAN ED ORIENTATION AND SAFE CHURCH TRAINING Ever wondered what it's like to serve in one of our youth programs or been curious about what's expected of our volunteers? Join us on **Saturday, September 12** to learn about our various children's and youth ministries, the many ways you can serve, and what volunteering involves. The orientation will be followed by **Safe Church training**, which is required for all who intend to volunteer. There is no cost or commitment to attend, and everyone is welcome! For more information, email Julia cedirector@southchurchconcord.org

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

USHERING/LAY LEADING are simple but essential roles for any worship service. Ushers greet congregants, pass out bulletins, and bring around the offering plates; Lay Leaders are asked to do two short readings from the pulpit. We welcome you to take part. Sign up at: <https://volunteersignup.org/F48LL>.