

**Seek Justice
Love Kindness
Walk Humbly**

**February 1st
2026**



South Congregational Church, UCC

27 Pleasant St. Concord, NH 03301
603-224-2521
www.southchurchconcord.org

*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 February 1st, 2026

**Please stand in body or spirit*

WORDS OF WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Sally Bird

One: People of God, let us come together in worship!

Many: With what shall we come before God?

One: God welcomes all of who we are; all our strengths and weaknesses;

Many: God welcomes our joys and sorrows, our peace and our struggles.

One: And God desires our wholeness, our unity, and our brilliant diversity.

Many: Come, let us bring the fullness of our souls together in song, prayer, discernment and praise;

All: Let us worship together with thanksgiving.

*OPENING HYMN *God of Grace and God of Glory*

(v. 1-3, 5) NCH #436

*UNISON PRAYER

Loving God, source of all blessings, there is unrest all around us, and your people are struggling today. So many in our world are in poor spirits. So many mourn and grieve for loved ones lost, injured, or living in fear. So many are hungry and thirsty, in body and spirit, and long for the righteousness that will bring calm and nourishment.

If we have contributed in any way to the suffering around us, forgive us, merciful God, and help us to become sources of relief and comfort. Show us the paths toward peace and healing. Guide us in our actions, and in our intentions, to share from any abundance we might know, and to be repairers of the breach and builders of sacred community. Bring us together at your table, and in your grace, and help us to recognize each other as siblings on this journey. Love your people into new life, we pray. Amen.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

CHORAL ANTHEM

I Choose Love

by Mark A. Miller

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

(After the Message, the children are invited to go to Sunday School downstairs.)

Beth Donaldson

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Micah 6:1-8

(Pew Bible: p. 757-8)

Matthew 5:1-12

(Pew Bible: p. 785-6)

Sally Bird

SERMON

The ABCs JKLS of Our Faith

Rev. Dr. Beth Donaldson

*HYMN

We Yearn, O Christ, for Wholeness

NCH #179

COMMUNION

- Invitation to the Table
- Words of Institution
- Distribution of the Elements

(Today's Communion will be by Intinction.)

- Prayer of Thanksgiving

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

Rialto Ripples

by Gershwin/Donaldson/Lyke
with Richard Nelson, piano

***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**

O For a World

NCH #575

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Spiritual

arr. Douglas Wagner

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:

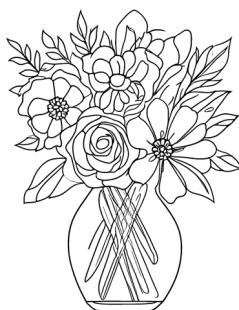
Lay Leader: Sally Bird

Ushers: Norma Angwin and Sally Bird

Worship & Spiritual Life Rep: Bonnie Ota

Collections & Deposits: Adria Cilley and Richard Nelson

Assistive Listening: Janet Zeller



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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – February 1st, 2026

SOUTH CHURCH CALL TO ACTION Last Sunday, Beth challenged us to take action against the wrongs we are witnessing both locally and nationally. Faith In Action is offering a training on how to let our elected leaders know what we think. Come to Fellowship Hall after worship **today**, help yourself to coffee and a snack, and join Leanne Tigert and Heather Barber to learn more.

LIFT USE OFFICIALLY GREENLIT We're delighted to share that the new church lift is officially up and running. If you or someone you know would benefit from using the lift and need assistance, our ushers and staff are happy to help. Thank you for your patience as we worked to get everything ready.

GENESIS CIRCLE will meet on **Thursday, February 5 at Noon** in Classroom 6. Bring your own lunch and hear **Liz Dane** tell us about growing up in a zoo!

Indulge your sweet tooth and come to the **GENESIS CIRCLE VALENTINE BAKE SALE** on **February 8th** in Fellowship Hall following worship! There will be lots of sweets and goodies for your Valentines.

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**. Her work, "Different Roots, Common Dreams," documents the vitality and diversity of our immigrant neighbors. Her 34 photos show families, children, workplaces, and traditional ceremonies.

NHCUCC CONFERENCE REGISTRATION IS OPEN! This year's theme is *Prepared to Serve 2026* and will take place at Pembroke Academy in Pembroke, NH, on **Saturday, February 28th**. The day's panels and workshops will center around cultivating personal faith and supporting the wider UCC church.

To see the full slate of events and to register, please visit <https://www.nhcucc.org/events/pts-2026>

TALK SERIES IN CELEBRATION OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH The Black Heritage Trail has invited Rev. Bishop Michael Curry for his talk "**A Knock at Midnight: Black Preacher as Orator**" on **Saturday, February 7th @ 5pm** at Temple Israel (and on Zoom) in Portsmouth, NH.

Highlighting the importance of African American oratory throughout our history, this dialogue explores how the pulpit evolved into both a sanctuary and a platform for liberation, influencing the moral and political discourse

within communities.

Attendance is free and open to the public. **RSVP at** [*www.blackheritagetrainnh.org/events/tea-talk-26-2*](http://www.blackheritagetrainnh.org/events/tea-talk-26-2)

PANEL ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS Hear, discuss and learn what you can do about the threat of nuclear weapons on **Sunday, February 8th at 1 PM** with world renowned expert, peace advocate, physician and a joint winner of 2 Noble Peace Prizes, Dr. Ira Helfand. Joining Dr. Helfand on the panel is Carleigh Beriont, PhD, a historian on US nuclear testing.

The panel will take place at the Community Church of Durham in Durham, NH. Hosted by the Peace with Justice Advocates of the NH Conference UCC. **Register at:** [*https://tinyurl.com/HelfandPanel2026*](https://tinyurl.com/HelfandPanel2026)

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE NH IMMIGRANT VISITATION PROGRAM The NH Immigrant Visitation Program (NHIVP) is looking for volunteers to join their team at the Strafford County Department of Corrections in Dover, NH. NHIVP visitors provide emotional and spiritual support for immigrants in the custody of US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). We also share information to support their self-advocacy within the immigration legal system.

For details, please contact Maggie Fogarty ([*mfogarty@afsc.org*](mailto:mfogarty@afsc.org)), or Ron Schneider and Carolyn Morse-Finn with the UCC Immigrant and Refugee Support Group ([*irsg.nhcucc@gmail.com*](mailto:irsg.nhcucc@gmail.com)).

MOMENT FOR MISSION: The Faith in Action (FIA) Moment for Mission for February is the **CCEH 17th Annual Souper Fest**, an open-to-all event of meeting and connecting with community over a hot meal, all while supporting the mission to end homelessness.

SouperFest's predecessor, "Soup Fest," was founded by Jim Kinhan in 2009 to honor senior members of South Church for their service to the Church, and to provide funding for youth mission trips. In 2010, The Concord Coalition to End Homelessness (CCEH), which was housed at the time at South Church, became Soup Fest's beneficiary and primary partner.

So let's become a SOUP-ER STAR SPONSER and support the CCEH! Learn more at <https://concordhomeless.org/souperfest>

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

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 interested in volunteering with any of 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!

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! The only requirements are:

- A love for children
- Completion of our Safe Church compliance training

Whether you can help weekly or just occasionally, we'd love to have you involved. If you have any questions or are interested, please contact Julia Wagner at cdirector@southchurchconcord.org. Thank you for supporting the next generation of our church family!

THIS WEEK AT SOUTH CHURCH

Monday, Feb 2nd:

Buildings and Grounds Meeting, 5:30pm

Tuesday, Feb 3rd:

Worship & Spiritual Life Meeting, 3:30pm

Giving Committee Meeting, 5:30pm

Wednesday, Feb 4th:

Memorial Bells Rehearsal, 6:30pm

Thursday, Feb 5th:

Genesis Circle w/ Liz Dane, 12:00pm

Knitting Group, 3:00pm

Saturday, Feb 7th:

Memorial Bells Rehearsal, 9:00am

Sunday, Feb 8th:

Genesis Circle Bake Sale, after worship

VOLUNTEER AS AN USHER OR LAY LEADER!

The 2026 signup sheet for worship volunteers is now live at
<https://volunteersignup.org/F48LL>

Thank you for contributing to these essential parts of worship!

PASTORAL CARE

If you have a death in the family, a sudden hospitalization or other significant life crisis, please leave a message at the Pastor's extension line at 603-224-2521 ext. 106.

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 to choose a date.