

# BEGINNING AFRESH TRUSTING IN LOVE

*South Congregational Church, UCC*

FEBRUARY 22ND, 2026



*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 February 22nd, 2026***

*\*Please stand in body or spirit*

### WORDS OF WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### PRELUDE

*A Winter's Walk* (Kathleen Basi)

Julia Emley, flute

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Bonnie Ota

One: Hush! Can you hear it?

**Many: There is an excited energy in the air.**

One: Hush! I think someone's calling us.

**Many: We have been called before...**

One: Hush! Yes! We're being called right now...

**Many: We're being called to worship.**

**We're being called to give thanks for those who've answered the call to serve in difficult times, during transitions, and in mission to others.**

**All: Someone's calling our names. Let us respond with hope and joy.**

**Come, let us worship.**

#### \*OPENING HYMN

*Hush, Hush, Somebody's Calling My Name*

NCH #604

*(Between each verse, names will be called. If your name is called, please come forward as you are able and willing.)*

#### \*UNISON PRAYER

**Gracious God, you have called us, South Congregational Church, to be a unique people of faith. We affirm today that you delight in us as a priesthood of all believers. And as such, you set before us times of transition and struggle in which these, your servants, stepped forward and said, "yes."**

**We thank you, Loving Creator, for their gifts and abilities, as we thank them for their time, talents, and devotion – all**

**offered to this community in our time of need. Help them to feel our deep and profound gratitude and bless them now with a season of renewal.**

**Guide us to embody your love and compassion in all we do, and renew our hearts and spirits through your grace. 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.**

COMMISSIONING      Settled Minister Search Committee      *See insert*

BLESSING      Back Bay Mission Trip

CHORAL ANTHEM      *Glory to God* (Israeli Folk Melody)

GIVING CAMPAIGN      *Giving with Gratitude*      Lou Rosenthal

SCRIPTURE READING      Matthew 4:1-11      Bonnie Ota  
(Pew Bible: p. 785)

SERMON      *Beginning Afresh; Trusting in Love*  
Rev. Dr. Beth Donaldson

\*HYMN      *Lord, Jesus, who through Forty Days*  
NCH #211

**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            *Falling Snow* (Kathleen Basi)            Julia Emley

\*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                    *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ*            NCH #347

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE            *Rondo* (Bob Moore)            Julia Emley

**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:** Bonnie Ota  
**Ushers:** Sheryl Walton  
**Worship & Spiritual Life Rep:** Lynne Morgan  
**Collections & Deposits:** Pegi Frosthalm and Chris Simmers  
**Assistive Listening:** Suzanne Winchester  
**Guest Music Director:** Warren Emley  
**Guest Musician:** Julia Emley

**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 Kathy Gullage  
*"With Love and Gratitude for my Parents, Jean and Bob Bragg."*



## **ANNOUNCEMENTS – February 22nd, 2026**

**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>

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

#### **Monday, Feb 23rd:**

Church Council Meeting, 5:30pm

#### **Thursday, Feb 26th:**

Staff Meeting, 10:00am

Choir Rehearsal, 7:00pm

#### **Friday, February 26th:**

Prayer Group (Church Library), 10:00am

#### **Sunday, March 1st:**

Worship Service, 10:00am (Second Sunday of Lent)

Potluck and Committee Fair, 11:00am

Youth Group, 7:00pm

**SHARING/LISTENING GROUPS** begin today.

Each Sunday after worship (11:30am) today and throughout Lent, except Mar. 1) these **sacred conversations will offer** spaces and times to **share and reflect on these last few years and all the losses and transitions experienced as a congregation, as well as some hopes and joys in looking forward.** Each person is invited to reflect out loud, as they desire, while the rest are invited to listen with love

and open hearts. These will also be opportunities for Beth to get to know all of us better, and for us to get to know her better in turn.

### **MARCH 1<sup>st</sup> FELLOWSHIP HOUR**

**Potluck:** Join us for a South Church Late Winter Potluck in Fellowship Hall after worship! We are looking for a few dozen volunteers to bring their favorite dishes for the potluck. Sign up at: <https://tinyurl.com/SCCpotluckfair2026>. Sample great food, and also...

**Ministry Fair:** ...sample South Church's Ministries, where you can learn more about the many ministries being stewarded by your fellow congregants. All who attend will wear a name tag indicating which committee or ministry they are currently serving, and special representatives of each board and ministry will be present to describe to others what the group does and how. There will be a chance to express interest in signing up for any ministries with openings, and a large game of Bingo will have prizes for those who are first to speak with the greatest number of ministry representatives.

**Membership Interest:** For those new to South Church, there will be a chance to find out more about becoming a member.

**SOUTH CHURCH'S ANNUAL PLEDGE DRIVE** will soon be underway! The theme this year is *GIVING FROM GRATITUDE*. Giving Committee member, Lou Rosenthal, will introduce it today in worship.

### **BACK BAY MISSION TRIP**

Please keep in your hearts and prayers members of our church who will join with others from other area churches going to Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, MS, to serve and be in community with people there. We thank Bob (and Gayle) Murphy, and Chris and Cheryl Simmers for representing us, and we pray for their safe travels and meaningful time.

**E-LATION UPDATE** Going forward, we are hoping to send the Monthly E-Lation Newsletter out on the 1st day of each month. If you have submissions, please have them in by the 20th. (For example, if you have an announcement for an event taking place in April, please submit it by March 20th.) If you need more time, let the office know

and we will hold some space. And if you, or someone you know, would like to receive a hard copy of our Monthly E-Lation Newsletter, please contact the office. Thank you!

### **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 [cedirector@southchurchconcord.org](mailto:cedirector@southchurchconcord.org). Thank you for supporting the next generation of our church family!

**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.

### **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)).

### **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 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!