



South Church's children's visions of what lifts them up.



**You?**  
**Uplifts**  
**What**

May 3rd 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 May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026***

*\*Please stand in body or spirit*

### WORDS OF WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

EVERYBODY NEEDS A LIFT

Cindy Rogers

PRELUDE      *Beach Spring* (arr. M. Barnhouse III)      Abigail Charbeneau

\*INVOCATION

Lynne Morgan

One: Today we gather in celebration and strength.

**All: We celebrate the gift of access that has come through our Lift.**

One: We lift our voices in song, and we lift our hearts in praise.

**All: We lift our prayers to you in thanksgiving for the technology and creativity with which the Lift was made,**

One: And for our freedom and ability it affords us to be more welcoming.

**All: For all the ways you lift us up, we thank you, gracious God.**

One: May our worship be a lift to you; may it make your heart happy.

**All: And may our worship lift us all – reminding us of your generous love. Come, let us worship.**

\*OPENING HYMN

*Help Us Accept Each Other*

NCH #388

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Loving God, we have often gotten things backwards. We imagine your blessings come through wealth and power, when**

**they truly come through simplicity and grace. We have believed that we should have total control of our lives, when letting go of control offers us so much more opportunity for our hearts to open and heal. And we have assumed that our ability to help is primarily a gift to others, when we have experienced so often our spirits enlivened and our hearts filled by such opportunities.**

**Show us the way, Holy One. Help us to help each other and to recognize the joy and strength that come from making the world more accessible to all. Remind us that it is our minds that need to be opened, as well as the doors that have become barriers rather than passageways. Heal us of the arrogance that allows us to imagine that we don't need each other, or you. And guide us on our way together, we pray. 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      *Witness* (arr. Roger Emerson)

SCRIPTURE READING    Isaiah 40:1-5 (Pew Bible p. 581)    Lynne Morgan  
Mark 2:1-5 (Pew Bible p. 813)

SERMON                      *The Glory of the Lord Revealed*  
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 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      *His Eye is on the Sparrow* (arr. Heather Sorenson)

\*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

*Blessed Be the Tie that Binds*

NCH #393

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Postlude on "Holy Manna"* (arr. John S. Dixon)

RIBBON CUTTING & LIFT CELEBRATION

**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:** Lynne Morgan  
**Ushers:** Peter Imse  
**Worship & Spiritual Life Rep:** Kathryn Bradley  
**Collections & Deposits:** Richard Nelson and Chris Simmers  
**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.

Flowers this week are kindly donated by Nancy and Billy Brown

*“In memory of Carter Brown,  
on the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death (May 7<sup>th</sup>).”*



## Announcements – May 3rd, 2026

**Welcome to South Church—please consider filling out a pew card!** Whether you are a new face or a returning member or visitor, we would love to connect with you. In the pews, you will find our welcome cards—we invite you to fill out a card with your contact information and a little bit about yourself. Completed cards can be placed in the offering plate; speak to one of our ushers if you need something to write with. We're grateful to have you join us in worship today!

**MOMENT FOR MISSION** The Faith in Action Ministry (FIA) has chosen **Strengthen the Church** as its May Moment for Mission. The Strengthen the Church Offering furthers the work of our conferences and the national UCC to strengthen and renew existing congregations, fund leadership development, and provide exciting new programs for youth and young adults. Please place your donation (cash or check) in the offering plate using the Strengthen the Church envelopes found in the pews; or, give online by scanning the QR code found on the back of the announcements (also included in today's Strengthen the Church insert). Thank you for your gifts!

**EVERYBODY NEEDS A LIFT** Our worship today is focused on thanksgiving of our Lift. You will find commitment cards in the bulletin for giving to this endeavor. And all are **invited to stay after worship for a celebration**, and to ride the lift itself. Join us!

**SUPPLEMENTAL PLEDGE OPPORTUNITY** Thank you to all who pledged. We are around \$57,000 short. Supplemental pledge cards are in the back of the sanctuary.

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

<b>Monday, May 4th:</b>	Budget Summit, 5:30pm
<b>Wednesday, May 6th:</b>	Morning Prayer Group (Zoom), 8:00am Personnel Committee, 3:30pm Memorial Bells Rehearsal (Sanctuary), 6:30pm

**Thursday, May 7th:** Staff Meeting, 10:00am  
Giving Committee, 5:00pm  
Buildings and Grounds Committee, 6:00pm  
Chancel Choir (Chapel), 7:00pm

**Sunday, May 10th:** Worship Service (Sanctuary), 10:00am  
Youth Group, 7:00pm

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

**WORK DAY MAY 16<sup>TH</sup>** The Buildings and Grounds Committee invites everyone to join in our Spring Work day on Saturday, May 16th, from 9am to noon (or until we are done!). Bring work gloves.

**GARDENING ANGELS** A heartfelt thank you to an enthusiastic group of Gardening Angels who clipped, raked, and tidied up the front and east side gardens at church on March 30th to create a welcoming entry for Easter. **Volunteers are needed to water, weed, and deadhead** throughout the summer, and we welcome each of you to contribute as you are able. Dates and times will be announced soon.

**FAMILY PROMISE** We share a ministry with Temple Beth Jacob of offering housing and meals for a week for families in need. Our next host week is **May 17th-24th** and will be hosted at **Temple Beth Jacob** (67 Broadway, Concord, NH). Please consider helping with this wonderful way to support our neighbors and be in ministry with our sister community of faith.

Sign up at: <https://tinyurl.com/FamilyPromise2026>.

For more information, please reach out to Peggy Scott. Thank you!

**ANNUAL REPORTS** If your committee or ministry has not yet had a chance to submit a report for our Annual Meeting, which will be held on May 17th, **please do so as soon as possible** (the deadline was April 17th). Thank you for helping us be informed about and celebrate all the ways that we are called and honored to be CHURCH together.

**THE ANNUAL MEETING is coming up on May 17th.** Please mark your calendars and plan to attend this important meeting of our congregation. Your voice and vote will matter as we gather around the decisions of our shared ministry.

**ONE GREAT MONTH OF SUPPORT** Through the generosity of the South Church congregation during the month of March, a **donation of \$1,200.00** was collected to support the UCC special mission, **One Great Hour of Sharing**. Thank you for your kindness! -Faith in Action

**YOU MAY NOTICE CHANGES IN THE OFFICE** With special gratitude to Michelle Johnson, who stepped in while we were short-staffed to help with so many administrative tasks, we are glad to announce that she will be focusing more now on her job as Church Bookkeeper, and she and Victoria have now swapped offices. (Take a moment to thank all three of our office staff when you have a chance.)

**CONTEMPLATION AND MINDFULNESS WITH WISDOM WAY**  
Wisdom Way is a monthly gathering of those seeking respite from today's increasingly fast-paced, noisy world. Each gathering offers a 20-minute period of contemplative silence followed by another 20-minute period of individual practice (mindful walking, journaling, art). We then gather for 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).

**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 9:00am and last approximately 30-45 minutes. For more information, please contact Christian Education Director Julia Wagner at [cedirector@southchurchconcord.org](mailto:cedirector@southchurchconcord.org).

### ***AROUND THE COMMUNITY***

**CONCORD CHORALE WILL PERFORM BRAHMS REQUIEM** at Saint Paul's Church in Concord on **TODAY, Sunday, May 3rd at 3:00pm**. Tickets are available at the door.

**COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE TO CENTRAL NH'S RELIGIOUS ROOTS:** On **May 15th at 1:30pm**, members of Concord's (inter)faith community are invited to gather at the monument to the first documented religious service in central NH. This commemorative service, led by Rev. Emilia Halstead of First Congregational Church and

featuring a performance by our own Memorial Bell Choir, will mark **the 300th anniversary** of that first service, to which six Concord congregations can trace their origins directly (including South Church!). For more information and for directions, please contact First Congregational Church by phone (603-225-5491) or visit their website: <https://ConcordsFirstChurch.org>.

**REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR STAR ISLAND** Star Island, a beautiful island in the Isles of Shoals off the coast of Portsmouth, NH, is now accepting registrations for its summer conferences and gatherings! Star Island offers individuals and families a broad array of workshops, outdoor programs and recreational activities, as well as UCC conferences. Check out the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall for brochures and information. Questions? Contact Martha Burnham.

**PHOTO EXHIBIT: FINDING HOME** The Congregational Church of Hollis (Hollis, NH) is hosting the photo exhibit "Finding Home: Portraits and Memories of Immigrants" from award-winning photographer Becky Field. Field's photographs celebrate people from other countries who have resettled in New Hampshire. **Until May 24th**, the exhibit can be visited Tues, Wed, Thurs 8:00am-12:00pm and 3:30-5:30pm, after worship on Sundays, and from 10am-2pm on Saturdays.

**A MESSAGE FROM RABBI ROBIN OF TEMPLE BETH JACOB** *Hi local folks, many of you have said to me, "just reach out if you need a ride." Truth is, I can't remember everyone who has offered. But I do need rides, especially to PT visits, during the month of May. If you can help out, please sign up at [www.mealtrain.com/trains/7gl95m](http://www.mealtrain.com/trains/7gl95m) Thank you so much.*

### **CHURCH LIFE**

**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.

**DONATE YOUR OLD SMARTPHONE OR TABLET TO ASSISTIVE LISTENING!** If you have a working Apple or Android smartphone or

tablet you no longer use, consider donating it to South Church! These devices will be made available during worship to those who want to connect to the South Church assistive listening system. To donate your device, please see the Assistive Listening Tech, drop items off at the church office, or contact Janet Zeller at [janet.zeller@gmail.com](mailto:janet.zeller@gmail.com) to arrange pickup. Please include a charging cable if you can. Thank you!

**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!

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

**PRAYER REQUESTS** If you have joys or concerns you would like to share, our ushers will be passing around a microphone during the service. If you wish to share a concern with our Lay Ministers, you may also use the yellow form in your pews and place them in the offering plate.

**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)) or scan the QR code (right). You may also mail/drop off a check at the office. Thank you for your continued generosity!

