

**JUNIOR CHOIR** will rehearse today in the vestry after worship.

**PASTORAL TRANSITION FORUM:** Join us on Sunday, March 25 for a Pastoral Transition Forum after Fellowship Hour in the community room. This forum, hosted by Church Council and the Pastoral Relations Committee, will be an open discussion on the process and potential options for the pastoral transition as a result of Pastor Dick's retirement on July 31. This is an important time in our church and we strongly encourage everyone to attend this meeting, both to provide your own input and respectfully listen to the suggestions and opinions of others in the congregation.

**THE ADULT STUDY GROUP** continues the study series, *Animate: Faith*, on Wednesday, March 7, when they will discuss "**Religion: Spirituality Is Not Enough.**" "If you ask me, 'Is God real?' I first have to ask, 'Which God are we talking about?'" With these words, Brian McLaren gives voice to a common struggle among people of faith—who exactly is this God we worship? Is God a mighty fortress, solid and unchanging? Is God a mystical, unknowable force that floats around us like a vapor? How can we speak of faith if we can't even speak of God with any certainty? How can we chart a course through the often-murky waters of Christian tradition and find our way to God?

The *Animate* series by SparkHouse is an exciting new way to learn and grow in faith outside of Sunday morning worship. The series uses short videos followed by a discussion facilitated by Pastor Maureen. All are welcome to join us in the parlor from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

Please join us for the fourth annual  
**EMPTY BOWLS**  
to benefit SHARE's Food Pantry

Sunday, March 18, 2018  
12:00 to 2:00 p.m.  
SHARE Center, 1 Columbus Ave, Milford



All are invited to the SHARE Center for a simple meal of soup, bread and beverages to remind us of those in our community who suffer from hunger and poverty. Bowls are handcrafted by school children in our local communities.

All food is donated by local restaurants and stores, and all proceeds will go to stock SHARE's food pantry for those in need.

Tickets will be sold at the door,  
or at the SHARE Center:  
\$15 adults, \$10 ages 18 and under,  
\$25 families.

For more information, contact SHARE:  
603-673-9898  
[www.sharenh.org](http://www.sharenh.org)  
SHARE Outreach, Inc. on Facebook

**SHARE FOOD PANTRY** requests for March include pancake mix and syrup, condiments, cooking sauces and seasonings, cooking oils, jelly, and cold cereal. Donations can be left in the SHARE cupboard in the narthex or in the container by the community room entrance. Many thanks for your continuing support!

**ORDERS FOR EASTER LILY PLANTS** used to decorate the chancel on Easter Sunday will be taken after church in the community room this morning. Or you can place your order through the church office before March 21. Donate a plant in memory of a loved one or in celebration of Easter. Your name and those you wish to remember will be printed in the bulletin. After the Easter services you may keep your lily or donate it to someone in need of some cheer. Our local grower provides lush plants with either one or two bulbs per pot - \$12.00 or \$20.00 for the huge double pots.

**CHURCH FUNDRAISER AT LABELLE WINERY:** Visit LaBelle Winery after Sunday worship now through April 30, and if you make a purchase in The Bistro or in The Gift Shop, **10% of your total purchase will be donated to the church.** This is an excellent way to support your local winery and support the church! Please inform your server at LaBelle Winery that you are a parishioner of The Congregational Church of Amherst and the 10% donation, calculated from your total bill, will be applied correctly as a donation to the church. If you have any questions, contact Amy LaBelle at [amy@labellewinerynh.com](mailto:amy@labellewinerynh.com).

**ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING**, as part of Our Churches Wider Mission, is the special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that carries God's message of love and hope to people in crisis. The UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water, food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons, and emergency relief and rehabilitation. OGHs also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response. Thank you for your caring and generous donations!



Lenten Soup and Study Series  
Continues Wednesdays,  
March 7 and 14  
6:30-8:30 p.m.

Join us in the parlor on four Wednesday evenings during Lent for delicious soup and engaging discussion based on the wonderful book *An Altar in the World* by Barbara Brown Taylor. Together we'll explore what it means to see and embrace the sacred in our everyday life, through simple practices such as walking, working, and prayer. Even folding laundry and grocery shopping can be meaningful if we take the time to notice the sights, smells, sounds, and opportunities for connection around us. **We'll gather at 6:30 p.m. for a light supper of soup and bread** and the discussion will run from 7:15 to 8:30 p.m. Pastor Dick and Pastor Maureen will alternate as facilitators of the sessions. The book is available for purchase for \$10 in the church office. **Please read chapters 7—9 for the March 7 session.** Even if you haven't read the book, all are welcome to participate in the meal and discussion!

**I HAVE ALREADY GIVEN** cards indicating that you give monthly or on-line are available for placing in the collection plate during the offering. These cards will be available each week in baskets outside the center sanctuary doors. We hope that they will provide you with a meaningful way of taking part in the service offering and a comfortable reminder and symbol of your generous act of giving.