

The Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
Amherst, New Hampshire



*“Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind,
flight to the imagination, and life to everything.”*

—Plato

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

The Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
Amherst, New Hampshire

May 19, 2019

Music Sunday—Fifth Sunday of Easter

10:00 a.m.

GATHERING CHIMES

Let us be gathered in silence so that we may prepare to worship.

GREETING AND NOTICES OF PARISH LIFE

PRELUDE

Menuet Gothique from Suite Gothique, Op. 25

Leon Boellmann

INTROIT

Chancel Choir

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 150

Leader: Praise God in this sanctuary!

People: Praise God with trumpet sound!

Leader: Praise God with lute and harp;

People: Praise God with tambourine and dance!

Leader: Praise God with strings and pipe;

People: Praise God with loud clashing cymbals!

Leader: Praise God with voices raised high!

All: Let everything that breathes praise God!

*HYMN

Come, Christians, Join to Sing

No. 150

UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION and THE LORD'S PRAYER (in unison)

God of birdsong, forest choruses, and waterfall symphonies; we hear your music all around us – in the crashing waves, in the desert winds, in the calling creatures of the night. May we add our voices to the mix, lifting them up in joy and sorrow, in praise and protest, in harmony and solitude. Send your Spirit among us this morning, to energize our worship and enliven our witness to the world, in word and song. We ask this in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray saying: **Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

*GLORIA PATRI (Tune #579)

Glory to the Creator, and to the Christ, and Holy Spirit, One;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen, Amen.

SACRAMENT OF CHRISTIAN BAPTISM

Margaret Frele Rapanut

Scriptural Sentences

Questions of Commitment

Response of Members and Friends (in unison)

We receive Margaret as a new person in Christ. We offer our understanding and support as she continues to explore life. We enfold her in our love, seeking together to grow in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and all people. We join with her parents in telling the Gospel in our midst, so that we may all live for Christ, showing forth God's love for all people. Amen.

Pouring of the Water

The Act of Baptism

Prayer of Blessing

Hymn of Thanksgiving

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise
(Tune: STUTTGART)

Child of blessing, child of promise, baptized with the Spirit's sign,
With this water God has sealed you unto love and grace divine.

Child of love, our love's expression, love's creation, loved indeed!
Fresh from God, refresh our spirits, into joy and laughter lead.

Child of joy, our dearest treasure, God's you are, from God you came.
Back to God we humbly give you: live as one who bears Christ's name.

Sending Forth

CHILDREN'S TIME

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of God be with you. AND ALSO WITH YOU.

ANTHEM

A Jubilant Celebration
Chancel Choir
Sue Werst, flute

J. Paul Williams/
Joseph M. Martin

SCRIPTURE LITANY

Colossians 3:16, Psalm 98:4, Psalm 104:33, Psalm 77:1,
Psalm 57:7, Psalm 108:1, Psalm 144:9

One: Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.

Many: **O sing to the Lord a new song, for God has done marvelous things. Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises.**

One: I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being.

Many: **My voice rises to God, and I will sing aloud; My voice rises to God, and God will hear me.**

One: My heart, O God, is steadfast, I will sing and make music!

Many: **My heart is steadfast, O God; I will sing praises, even with my soul.**

One: I will sing a new song to you, O God; Upon a harp of ten strings I will sing praises to you.

Many: **Then those who sing as well as those who play the flutes shall say, "All my springs of joy are in you."**

SERMON

"I've Got the Music in Me"

*HYMN

When Morning Gilds the Skies

No. 487

You are invited to write your joys and concerns on the prayer cards in the pews, and pass to the minister to be lifted in prayer at this time.

JOYS AND CONCERNS and PASTORAL PRAYER

CHORAL RESPONSE

Chancel Choir

INVITATION TO SHARE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Along with our offering collected this morning, we dedicate the generous contributions of those who give monthly or electronically. All of our offerings support the work and witness of Jesus Christ here in this place and in the wider world. Each is given to the glory of God in faithful appreciation for many received blessings. Thanks be to God!

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Meditation on a Scottish Melody
Handbell Choir

arr. Kevin McChesney

*DOXOLOGY (Tune: *From All That Dwell Below the Skies*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below. Alleluia, Alleluia.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

Loving God, as your Holy Word reveals, your gift of grace is offered to all of your children. You wait expectantly to hear our response. In this hushed moment, we respond by offering our financial gifts and the gift of ourselves. We respond by praising your name in prayer. We respond by singing, "Glory be to God!" Amen.

*HYMN

When in Our Music God Is Glorified

No. 264

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

Chancel Choir

*POSTLUDE

Allegro maestoso e vivace from Sonata II, Op. 65, No. 2

Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy

(*Indicates that those who are able may stand.)

Our Church Calendar
May 19—25, 2019

Today	10:00 a.m.	Worship
	11:10 a.m.	Fellowship—Community Room
	11:30 a.m.	Small Group Ministry—Parlor
	6:00 p.m.	Senior High Youth Group—Youth Room
Tuesday	8:30 a.m.	Men's Fellowship—Youth Room
	10:30 a.m.	WA Annual Meeting & Luncheon—Vestry
Thursday	6:00 p.m.	Handbell Choir—Sanctuary



THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AMHERST
A Welcoming, Open and Affirming Congregation
of the United Church of Christ



**“No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey,
you are welcome here.”**

We, the members of the Congregational Church of Amherst, New Hampshire, United Church of Christ, believe God’s Holy Spirit and Jesus Christ call us to love all our neighbors as we would want to be loved. We are called to be as one body, seeking to walk together in the full life and ministry of our church.

We welcome each individual as a child of God. As covenant members of Christ’s church, we celebrate God’s love for people of all races and ethnic backgrounds, all mental and physical abilities, all socioeconomic backgrounds, all sexual orientations, all gender identities and gender expressions, and all of the other diverse attributes woven into the fabric of humankind.

With God’s grace, we invite all to share in the life and leadership, ministry and fellowship, worship and sacraments, responsibilities and blessings of our church.

We are pleased that you have chosen to worship with us this morning. Our membership is open to all those who choose to walk with us in our witness. Please speak with any of our deacons or pastors should you have any questions regarding our church or our membership.

Worship Notes:

- **Nursery Care** is provided for children ages two and under at the beginning of worship.
- **Church School** is available for children in Pre-K through grade 7 immediately following Children’s Time.
- **Joys and Concerns** may be written on the cards found in the pew racks. Cards will be collected by one of the pastors during the middle hymn and shared during the Prayers of the People.
- **Nametags** – Please remember to wear your nametag each Sunday, so that we may all greet our neighbors. If you do not have a permanent nametag, temporary nametags may be found inside the friendship registers. If you are in need of a new, permanent nametag, please see one of the deacons.
- **Fellowship** – Please join us in the community room following worship to welcome visitors and friends.
- **Emergencies** – In the event of an emergency, please remain seated until instructions have been given. An emergency plan is in place for the children in the nursery and in the church school.

The church office is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Here’s how to reach us: by telephone 673-3231, or by email andrea@ccamherst.org. If we are unavailable by phone, please feel free to leave a message using the personal directory, and we will get back to you as soon as we can. Visit our church’s website at www.ccamherst.org, and follow us on Facebook at Facebook.com/ccamherst.

Grounded in God’s Love—Serving Neighbors Near and Far—Welcoming to All

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Members and Friends of The Congregational Church

Maureen R. Frescott

Katherine Rogers

Sara L. Phelps

Michael Havay

Wendy Valeri

Sally Bowkett

Claire Choiniere

Adrienne and Doug Topliffe

Judi Dunbar

Marilyn Gibson

Laura Green

Ministers to the World

Senior Pastor

Associate Pastor

Director of Music

Organist/Accompanist

Handbell Choir Director

Deacon In Charge

Greeter

Ushers

Liturgist

Church School Coordinator

Nursery Coordinator

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are given in celebration of our dedicated musicians on this Music Sunday.

WE REJOICE TODAY in the baptism of Margaret (Maisy) Frele Rapanut, daughter of Bradley Rapanut and Rebecca Frele. Maisy's sponsors are Kelsey Power and Jonathan Wilkinson.

144 ENVELOPES" Through May! On Palm Sunday, our Senior High Youth Group rolled out its WALL OF MISSION board. There's still time to help support the mission work of our youth by choosing one of the 144 envelopes on the board (numbered 1-144) and donating the dollar amount equivalent to the number on the envelope. Everyone who chooses an envelope will receive a mission trip newsletter and a special invitation to a pancake breakfast next fall! Your donations will help fund SHYG's mission trip to New Orleans, where we will be building homes and helping restore the coast. The WALL OF MISSION board will stay up during the month of May or until all the envelopes are taken! Get yours today!

SUCCESSFUL SPRING: It's that time of year when gifts are needed for teachers, dads, grads, weddings and anniversaries—and SUCCESS can help! Giving SUCCESS cards helps our church while making great gifts, or you can use them yourself when you shop or dine out. Orders can be placed in the community room after church today. Simplify your shopping with SUCCESS!

PALMS FOR SALE: We have two palm plants for sale, \$10 each. Contact Andrea in the church office if you would like one (or both).

The Lectionary texts for the next two weeks are:

May 26: Acts 16:9-15
Psalm 67
Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5
John 14:23-29 or John 5:1-9

June 2: Acts 16:16-34
Psalm 97
Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21
John 17:20-26

***Then Sings Our Soul,
How Great Thou Art***

**Woman's Association's
Annual Meeting and
Potluck Salad Luncheon**

WA members and friends are invited to attend our celebration of spring and the year's accomplishments on **Tuesday, May 21, 2019 at 10:30 a.m.** in the vestry. For generations, the WA has been a contributor to our church and community, and for generations our friends and church family have been by our side helping us reach those goals. Please come and share our joy.

The morning will include Adrienne Topliffe's annual report and the installation of officers, followed by a potluck of salads and desserts. Please contact Claire Choiniere at 554-1987 or claire.choiniere@yahoo.com to sign up and prevent a duplication of dishes.



PEW BIBLES: The Diaconate is preparing to replace the current pew Bibles with ones that are the New Revised Standard Edition (the version we read from on Sunday mornings.) You can donate a Bible for \$10 in memory of a loved one or in celebration of a blessed event. Forms are available on the table in the narthex, or contact Andrea in the church office.

SHARE FOOD PANTRY requests for May include canned ham, canned meats, side dishes (seasoned pasta mix, Hamburger Helper, etc.), ravioli, Beef-a-roni. 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!

ORDINATION SERVICE: Mark your calendars! On Sunday, **June 9**, our church will proudly host Pastor Kate's Ordination Service, beginning at 3:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Following the service, we invite everyone to join us in the community room for a celebration of Kate's journey and her ordination in the United Church of Christ as a minister, and in recognizing all the preparation, dedication, devotion and sacrifice that she has endured to follow her call to serve.

CHURCH SCHOOL: Flowers for the altar is the church school's **mission project** during the summer. Our church school theme is ***God Made the Earth: We Must Care For It.*** What can be more loving and a true sign of our children and families being present than flowers from our garden? We would like to invite you to share the Fruits of The Spirit. Your help would be greatly appreciated to maintain the backyard flower beds. A short period of time is needed, once per week, by several volunteers throughout the summer to keep the beds watered, snip dead heads and such, with assistance from Marilyn Gibson. During Fellowship Hour, please visit our table and sign up for a convenient time and enjoy the Fruits of The Spirit.

Children's Sunday is June 2. All church school children will be preparing and practicing for our end of the school year celebration, today and Sunday, May 26. The theme of our celebration is Fruits of The Spirit. Pre-K—grade 7 children are in their classrooms creating presentations and selecting roles for the celebration. Music rehearsal for all children will be in the Bean Room on the third floor after the class portion of preparation today. Parents of children Pre-K through grade 2 will meet their child/children in the Bean Room after worship. Children in grades 3 to 7 will be dismissed to Fellowship.

BUSY DAY, BUSY PEOPLE: Some of you will recognize this title from the children's book, which talks about all the work that needs to be done to keep a city in motion. The title also aptly describes all the work done by our Capital Campaign team, keeping our meetinghouse and parsonage projects in motion! Our building team (Doug Topliffe team lead, Charlie Vars, Alicia Wight, Jack Buben, John Swanson, Anne Krantz, Dick and Sue Stout, and Todd Whitney) has been very busy planning the next items to be addressed with the funds already received.

Each project requires current contracts on work to be done, multiple contractors identified, request for quotes reviewed, contractors vetted and engaged, and scheduling arranged. The current priority is upgrading the electrical systems in the meetinghouse and the parsonage, with lighting upgrades in the new(er) portion of the church later this summer. The parsonage chimney repair is also scheduled for the end of May, with the parsonage roof to follow soon thereafter. The kitchen water heater will be replaced soon too, this being one of the kitchen items on the list of improvements for the capital campaign. It has become very problematic and the building team saw no reason not to address it now.

Many of the accomplishments to date aren't clearly visible to the casual observer, including the new fire suppression system which is complete, excluding some final clean up items and the new alarm system. However, we can all admire the two maple trees, now planted between the church and the parsonage. This planting was part of a grant from the Milford Rotary Club Jackson Fund, and was requested by the Rotary Club in memory of Elizabeth and Bob Jackson.

Heartfelt thanks go to the busy people who are spending enormous amounts of time to ensure that our campaign funds are spent wisely and well. When you see them, please thank them!

CAT Survey

How might we do more to reach and serve people in our community?

What influences our decision-making when it comes to charitable giving?

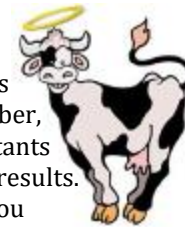
Do our worship services help us to apply our faith in our day-to-day life?

Holy Cow, you ask a lot of questions! As introduced at our May 5 annual meeting, the CAT Survey (Congregational Assessment Tool) is an extensive online survey that CCA members and active participants will be invited to take, anonymously, via an email link, which will be sent out on May 19. The CAT is designed and administered by Holy Cow Consulting and has been shown to give faith communities an accurate assessment with the following action goals in mind:

- Ø Measure the level of satisfaction and energy in the congregation.
- Ø Identify the critical success factors for improving organizational climate.
- Ø Pinpoint the strengths of a congregation's culture.
- Ø Discover where members would like to go in the future.
- Ø Gauge the readiness for change.
- Ø Uncover potential resources we may be missing.

The survey will be open from Sunday, May 19 through Saturday, June 8 - and takes about 30 minutes to complete.

Paper copies will be available for those who don't have access to a computer. In early September, we'll meet with trained consultants who will help us interpret our results. Please click on the link when you receive it, and when you complete the survey you may say, "Holy Cow, we're shaping the future of our church for years to come."



WIN \$25,000 TOWARDS A 2019 CAR OF YOUR CHOICE FROM Peters of Nashua

To order tickets and see rules visit: <https://www.ccamherst.org/raffle/>



Early Bird Bonus Raffle
for Tickets bought
by June 13th, 12pm ...
Six Tickets and \$100
Labels Winery
Gift Certificate

facebook [facebook.com/ccamherst](https://www.facebook.com/ccamherst)

The Congregational Church of Amherst New Hampshire, United Church of Christ, (CCA)
is sponsoring a raffle to benefit the missions and programs of the church.

The Historic Meeting House of Amherst and the facilities
of the Congregational Church of Amherst are used by our
citizens and members for many functions year-round!

Some of the organizations we support are:
AA meetings sponsoring
Andrew Newton Theological School
Anne-Marie Hoopes
Bedford Animal Rescue League
Belknap Christian Services
Boys & Girls Club of Southrop Valley
Breakfast With Santa
Bridges, NH
Camps Alive
Chaplain's Emergency Relief Fund NH
Christmas Caroling to Shut Ins
Christmas Fund (UCC "5-S" Appeal)
Christmas in Amherst Village-House Tour
Church World Service
City Year Manchester NH
Community Suppers at SHARDS & CCA
Crestwood Nursing Home
FISH
Harbor Homes
Harpwell Gambelan Music Program
Heifer International
H.O.M.E.
Holiday Toy Store
Holy Joe's Cafe
Honor Health & Hospice
Local area Girl Scout & Boy Scout Troops
Lions Club
Maine Seacoast Mission
Manchester Community Health Center
Men's Group
Mills Apartments in Milford
Music Healing Ministry
Nashua Children's Home
Neighbors in Need (UCC "5-S" Appeal)
New Hampshire Comedical Facility for Women
New England Veterans Home
New Horizons for NH
NH Preservation Alliance
Nursing Home Schools
Oshagenier Group
One Great Hour of Sharing (UCC "5-S" Appeal)
Our Church's Visitor Mission (OCVM)
Pastoral Disciplinary Fund
Rumsey's Safe Give Away
Senior High Youth Group Outreach Projects
Senior High Youth Group Annual Mission Trip
SHARE
SHARDS'88 Food Pantry Initiative
Strengthen the Church (UCC "5-S" Appeal)
Stuffed Animal Collection for Hospitals
Town of Amherst (community events)
UCC Disaster Relief
Vanessa Across America (VAA)

**Grand Prize: \$25,000 towards purchase
of car from Peters of Nashua**

Ticket Price: \$60 or two for \$100

Drawing Date for Grand Prize:

Tuesday, August 6, 2019 at 6:00pm

Early Bird Raffle: Tickets must be purchased by June 13th, 12:00pm

Drawing date: Sunday June 16, 2019 at 11:30am

First Prize: \$100 Gift Certificate to Labelle Winery

Second Prize: 2 Red Sox tickets valued at \$100

Location of Drawings: Congregational Church of Amherst

11 Church St. Amherst, NH 03031

attendance not required, but all are welcome

HOW TO BUY TICKETS:

ONLINE - official rules: <https://www.ccamherst.org/raffle/>

BY PHONE: 603-673-3231 ext# 13

Moulton's Market 10 Main St. Amherst, NH

Homestead Grocery and Deli 432 Boston Post Rd. Amherst, NH

Toadstool Bookstore Lorden Plaza, 614 Nashua St. Milford, NH

Peters of Nashua



**Purchaser of ticket agrees to all Rules and Regulations.
See details of Raffle, and read Rules and Regulations prior to ticket purchase
<https://www.ccamherst.org/raffle/>

Congregational Church of Amherst



Please join us for a night of fun on June 19th as the Fisher Cats take on the Binghamton Rumble Ponies! The game will begin at 6:35pm. You don't want to miss this!

For additional information, or to purchase tickets, please contact Roger Hooper at rhooper673@aol.com.



NHFISHERCATS.COM  603.641.2005

NORTHEAST DELTA DENTAL
STADIUM

Sunday, May 19, 2019

A Much Greater Hunger

Stress does more than make you sick. It destroys your peace, hope and dreams. — Elie Sommer

Happiness can be found even in the darkest of times, if one only remembers to turn on the Light.
—Albus Dumbledore

In a given year, one in every four people (26%, according to the National Institute on Mental Health) will be affected by substance abuse or a mental illness. In any successive year that could be you who seeks assistance due to grief, financial woes, divorce, transfer to a new state, alcoholism, chemical imbalance, too much trauma, just being overwhelmed by life.

So many articles and campaigns use third person pronouns to describe people with mental illness, dual diagnosis (substance use plus mental illness) and addiction. I challenge authors, solicitors for Special Olympics, pastors, readers and listeners young and old to substitute “we” and “us” for “they” and “them.”

Why do we reach from pew to pew, saying: May the Peace of God be with you? Why not widen the welcome to all? Jesus reached out to people who were marginalized, to those who were ostracized, and to those who were the outcasts in the eyes of society. The Way of Jesus was comfort, not ridicule; it was love, not indifference; it was empathy, not hostility.

The Way of Jesus is our spiritual calling. It is the Way we are to acknowledge and affirm the worth of everyone, especially those deemed most needy of our respect and love. Jesus' Way is to overturn the customs that put those suffering the most down and lift up those who have been shut out. It is our spiritual calling to follow Jesus that leads us to widen our welcome.

“Being unwanted, unloved, uncared for, forgotten by everybody, I think that is a much greater hunger, a much greater poverty than the person who has nothing to eat.” —Mother Theresa

Having a support system is vital to a person in crisis or with long-term illness, such as depression. That support system can come from one single caring person. We can fight stigma and build knowledge.

“But you are the ones chosen by God, chosen for the high calling of priestly work, chosen to be a holy people, God’s instruments to do his work and speak out for him, to tell others of the night and day difference he made for you – from nothing to something from rejected to accepted.”

—1 Peter 2:9-10, The Message