

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



*“Let this be a season for wandering
for trusting the breaking
for tracing the tear that will return you
to the One who waits
who watches
who works within the rending
to make your heart whole.”*

—Jan L. Richardson

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

March 1, 2020

First Sunday in Lent

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

Pastorale on "Blessed Assurance"

Phoebe Palmer Knapp/
Robert Lau

INTROIT

Chancel Choir

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: People of God, why do we gather this day?

People: To step out on the journey that is Lent.

Leader: And where will that passage take us?

People: Into the wilderness and toward the cross.

Leader: People of God, what do we carry with us?

People: The Holy Spirit as sustenance, and God's promise as our compass.

Leader: And who shall be our guide?

People: Jesus, who travels before us and beside us.

Leader: People of God, let us begin our journey.

People: Let us worship God, together!

*HYMN

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

No. 281

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

Gracious God, be with us in this hour. May we hear your Word with new ears. May we pray, understanding that you share this space and time with us. May your presence and Spirit moving among us be with us these forty days, so that we will be ready to receive Easter in its fullness. Hear us as we pray together as Jesus taught, 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.**

LENTEN LITANY OF CONFESSION

inspired by Psalm 51

One: On this first Sunday of Lent
we pause and look within
to examine our consciousness.

Many: **Have mercy on us, O God,
according to your steadfast love.**

One: Where we have neglected prayer,
found reasons to avoid generosity,
or lacked compassion:

Many: **Have mercy on us, O God,
according to your steadfast love.**

One: Where we have colluded
in the oppression of those
who become invisible in their suffering:

Many: **Have mercy on us, O God,
according to your steadfast love.**

One: Where anxiety has eroded the gift of Your peace,
and where we have cared too much
about what others think:

Many: **Have mercy on us, O God,
according to your steadfast love.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

*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.

CHILDREN'S TIME

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

ANTHEM

Ave Verum
Chancel Choir

W. A. Mozart

Hail, true Body, born of the Virgin Mary,
who having truly suffered,
was sacrificed on the cross for mankind,
whose pierced side flowed with water and blood:
May it be for us a foretaste of the Heavenly banquet
in the trial of death.

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 4:1-11

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But Jesus answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

SERMON

"The Devil is in the Details"

*HYMN

*When Peace, Like a River
(It Is Well with My Soul)*
verses 1, 2 & 4 only

inside back page

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

O Saving Victim

Paul Karvonen

*DOXOLOGY (Tune: OLD HUNDREDTH, No. 592)

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

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

Holy one, receive these offerings for the work and being of your church. In this season we also dedicate to you our Lenten journeys. May they be openings and opportunities for us to experience anew the rich reality you have in mind for our lives. May we seek to recreate the world by recreating ourselves. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

ORGAN MEDITATION

A Prayer

Dennis Eliot

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

We welcome all people to join in receiving this sacrament. Children may participate at the discretion of their parents. The cup contains grape juice. The bread is gluten, wheat, dairy, and egg free.

CALL TO COMMUNION

Leader: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to God.

Leader: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

COMMUNION PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

BREAKING OF THE BREAD, POURING OF THE CUP

CONSECRATING PRAYER

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

In the tradition of our church, let us partake of the bread as it is served, remembering our individual uniqueness in the eyes of God and our diversity within the Body of Christ. Let us hold the cup until all have been served, remembering our oneness with God and our unity in the Body of Christ.

COMMUNION PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (in unison)

We give thanks, O God, because in your own free gift of love you have reached out to us. You have refreshed us at your table, touched our deepest needs, and called us to a shared memory and hope. Send us forth with courage and joy in the name of Jesus Christ, that we, too, might become bread and life for one another and the world. Amen.

*HYMN

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

No. 81

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

Chancel Choir

*POSTLUDE

Chorale

Heinrich Schütz/
Carson Cooman

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



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. **The next new member orientations will be held March 12 and March 18.** New members will be formally received on Sunday, March 22. 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 673-6848, 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](https://www.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 R. Kennedy
 Sara L. Phelps
 Michael Havay
 John Swanson
 Alicia Wight
 Marilyn Gibson
 Heather Stone
 Leona Hendrickson
 Sue Werst
 Gretchen Davis
 Dave Hagerstrom

Ministers to the World

Senior Pastor
 Associate Pastor
 Director of Music
 Organist/Accompanist
 Deacon In Charge
 Greeter
 Church School Coordinator
 Nursery Coordinator
 Pre-K/K Church School Teacher
 Grades 1-2 Church School Teacher
 Grades 3-4 Church School Teacher
 Grades 5-7 Church School Teacher

Wendy Valeri

Bell Choir Director

ARE YOU READY TO JOIN? Anyone interested in becoming, or just thinking about becoming a member of the Congregational Church of Amherst, UCC, is cordially invited to attend one of two orientation sessions scheduled for Thursday, March 12 and Wednesday, March 18 at 7:00 p.m. in the parlor. New members will be formally received on Sunday, March 22. For more information or to sign up for one of the orientation sessions, please contact Andrea in the church office at andrea@ccamherst.org or 673-3231. Also, feel free to talk with either pastor or any deacon (green name tag folks). We look forward to hearing from you.

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!

CAT SURVEY RESULTS TODAY: Did you miss the January presentation of the CAT Survey (Church Assessment Tool) results? Join us today in the parlor after worship for a second showing of the presentation. Why did the CAT survey designate us as a "Transformational Congregation?" What are we doing well? What could we be doing better? Come and find out!

The Lectionary texts for the next two weeks are:

March 8: Genesis 12:1-4a
 Psalm 121
 Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
 John 3:1-17 or Matthew 17:1-9

March 15: Exodus 17:1-7
 Psalm 95
 Romans 5:1-11
 John 4:5-42

FINDING YOUR WHY: Join us for a special workshop designed to help us “Find Your Why” – the reason WHY we come to church as individuals and the reason WHY we are church together. Our WHY is our motivation for all that we do. It’s where we find meaning, purpose and joy. A church that knows its collective WHY has a clearer understanding of its mission, is better able to articulate and live into that mission, and draw in others who connect with that mission.

If you’re interested in participating, please contact the church office or Pastor Maureen at pastormaureen@ccamherst.org.

The workshop will take place on Saturday, **March 14** from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the community room. Lunch will be provided. **RSVP’s are required** as we need to determine the group size for the purpose of the exercises.

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.

Financial Summary			
(as of January 31, 2020)			
	YTD	YTD	
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$276,601	\$257,995	\$18,607
Expenses	\$262,862	\$266,191	\$(3,329)
Net Income	\$ 13,739	\$(8,197)	\$21,936

Numbers have been rounded to the nearest whole dollar; as such, some columns may not appear to total correctly.

We hope you are finding this information helpful. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to anyone on the Finance Team: Gail Agans (chair), Paul Spiess, Doug Topliffe, Todd Whitney and Tim Wiegand (Treasurer).

CHURCH SCHOOL: Welcome to the spring term! **Today’s lesson** is “**The Woman At The Well.**” The living water Jesus talked about was love and forgiveness and understanding. Water is very important for life, but it symbolizes much more in our Christian faith. Today’s lesson is being taught by Ms. Lee with Pre-K/K, Mrs. Sue Werst with grades 1 and 2, Mrs. Gretchen Davis with Grades 3 and 4, and Mr. Dave Hagerstrom with grades 5, 6 and 7.

Children in Pre-K/K are returning to the classroom next to our church office. Thank you to Mrs. Marianne Stone, who during our winter term taught Pre-K/K in the church nursery.

Our church school reinforces the Lenten season with each child having an opportunity during the forty days of Lent to be like Jesus and to get closer to God. Children will be given an activity to do so with materials available today during class. Parents with their child/children are able to use the activity as a supportive tool during Lent.

Bible Sunday is March 29. Church school students who received their own Bible in the fall will present their passage to the congregation during worship. They are to bring their Bible to class in order to prepare for their presentation.

COMMUNITY SUPPER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: The next FREE community supper at our church will be on **Thursday, March 5** from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. We are planning a delicious menu, and your help is needed with greeting, food prep, set up and clean up, serving and dessert making. **This is a great opportunity to serve your community.** If you can help, please contact John Swanson or Nancy Protzmann.

THANK YOU to everyone who has helped make these suppers at our church and at SHARE successful!



Lenten Soup and Study Series

Wednesdays, March 4, 11, 25 and April 1
6:30-8:00 p.m.

Join us in the parlor on four Wednesday evenings during Lent for delicious soup and engaging discussion based on the wonderful book:

Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again by **Rachel Held Evans**.
 With Rachel's insight and humor as our guide, we'll wrestle with our doubts, imaginations, and the mysteries of scripture, and discover that the Bible is not a static work but is a living, breathing, captivating, and confounding book that equips to join God's loving work in the world.

We'll gather at 6:30 p.m. for a light supper of soup and bread and the discussion will run from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. Pastor Maureen and Pastor Kate will alternate as facilitators of the sessions. The book is available for purchase for \$10 in the church office. The first session will focus on the first TWO chapters of the book, and each successive session will focus on the following two chapters. Even if you haven't read the book, all are welcome to participate in the meal and discussion!

Our Church Calendar March 1—7, 2020

Today	10:00 a.m. Worship 11:10 a.m. Fellowship—Community Room 11:15 a.m. Youth Choir—Vestry 11:30 a.m. CAT Survey Results—Parlor 6:00 p.m. Senior High Youth Group—Youth Room
Monday	10:00 a.m. WA Workshop—Vestry 6:00 p.m. Finding Your Why Planning—Meeting Room
Tuesday	8:30 a.m. Men's Fellowship—Youth Room 9:00 a.m. Prayerful Playgroup—Nursery 1:30 p.m. Small Group Ministry—Parlor 6:00 p.m. Church Council—Parlor
Wednesday	6:30 p.m. Lenten Soup & Study Series—Parlor
Thursday	5:30 p.m. Community Supper—Community Room 6:00 p.m. Confirmation Class—Youth Room 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir—Sanctuary 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir—Vestry

Good Stuff Sale

Time to clean house from attic to basement and collect GOOD STUFF for the Woman's Association's Good Stuff Sale April 17 & 18.

- ✓ We would like clean and sorted clothing for men, women, children & infants.
- ✓ We are collecting fine, costume and fun jewelry. Good purses, back packs, shoes and boots, etc; all accessories too.
- ✓ Household items: linens & towels, spreads, curtains and drapes, home decorative items.
- ✓ Kitchen items: pots and pans, utensils, dishes and glassware, small appliances that work.
- ✓ Small furniture, toys, games, puzzles, CD's, DVD's, books, etc.

Please leave your labeled boxes and bags in the church vestry or in the designated WA workrooms – look for signs. Contact Sally Bowkett, 673-7409 sbb46@hotmail.com if you have questions or need help delivering your good stuff.

Tell family and friends about this great way to recycle your *Still Good Stuff!* All proceeds go to our charities and other needs within our church.

Please do NOT donate bicycles, large sports equipment, appliances, furniture, computers, TV's, text books, car seats or baby furniture.

Thank you so much!



Sunday, March 1, 2020

The Words We Choose To Use



“The Power of Words! Words are powerful. Words convey ideas, thoughts, beliefs, feelings, and emotions. Positive words can make a great impact in our lives.

*But, I'll never forget the advice you gave me;
You saved my life with those wise words.* - Psalm 119: 103

Words, words, words! So many words. Words of mayhem and murder in the news; catalogs and solicitations; tweets, and songs. Calculated words chosen to uplift or denigrate. Words in the balance with “Love” words tipping the scale every time. It’s not the words we know that show wisdom, but how and when we use them.

Take care of your words and the words will take care of you – Amit Ray

Choose to use words of encouragement and inspiration for one another. Give words of appreciation to those around you. You may not realize this but your one word of appreciation for someone may pass on the effect of positivity far and wide in the World. One kind word can change the lives of millions of people and make people love and create a better World.” – Avijeet Das

For me I see the world as one big nation, where everyone in it is a citizen, so it is our responsibility to make it better. – [Nurudeen Ushawu](#)

“**Words**” – Hawk Nelson Lyrics

*They've made me feel like a prisoner
They've made me feel set free
They've made me feel like a criminal
Made me feel like a king.
They've lifted my heart
To places I'd never been
And they've dragged me down
Back to where I began*

*Words can build you up
Words can break you down
Start a fire in your heart or
Put it out.
Let my words be life
Let my words be truth
I don't wanna say a word
Unless it points the world back to You*