

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



***“Doubts are the ants in the pants of faith.
They keep it awake and moving.”***

– Frederick Buechner

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

April 11, 2021

Second Sunday of Easter

10:00 a.m.

Faith Promise Sunday

PRELUDE

Alleluia!
from the motet "Exultate, Jubilate" K. 165

W. A. Mozart/
arr. Maurizio Machella

GREETING AND NOTICES OF PARISH LIFE

CALL TO WORSHIP and PRAYER OF INVOCATION and THE LORD'S PRAYER

One: The tomb was found empty!

Many: And we are amazed!

One: Jesus has risen!

Many: And we are rejoicing!

One: Jesus comes to us, saying, "Peace be with you!"

Many: And our hearts are singing!

One: Jesus also said, "Blessed are those have not seen yet come to believe!"

All: Come, let us walk the journey of faith, acknowledging our doubts and holding on to hope, for Christ is Risen, indeed!

Let us pray:

Risen Savior, we dare to believe in the things we cannot see:
your love for us, your love for those around us, and the hope of eternity.
We dare to believe that another world is possible;
that suffering can end and that we can play a part in the kin-dom to come.
We dare to believe in heaven on earth;
in the light breaking through, in justice made new,
and in everlasting peace for all.

Compassionate Christ, you appeared to your disciples in their hour of fear, and offered them your peace to still their hearts, may we experience that peace among us now, as we pray the words that you taught us:

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.

CHILDREN'S TIME

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

HYMN

Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 20:19-31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the religious authorities, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

SERMON

"Believing Thomas"

ANTHEM

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring
Herb Archer, guitar

JOYS AND CONCERNS and PASTORAL PRAYER

FAITH PROMISE OFFERING INVITATION AND THANKSGIVING

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

For the breath of life, for eyes to see, for insight to believe, for courage to witness, we give thanks, gracious God. The signs of your presence are everywhere. May this offering serve as our witness to your grace and peace. Breathe your Spirit into us so that it may transform, inspire, and equip us in your service. Amen.

COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

POSTLUDE

Alleluia—#10 from 11 Pieces for Organ

Georges A. P. Jacob

*Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service
obtained from One License with license #A-731944.*

*Portions of today's liturgy are adapted from
Touch Holiness, edited by Ruth Duck, and from
Gathered by Love, by Lavon Baylor.*

The Lectionary texts for the next two weeks are:



April 18: Acts 3:12-19
Psalm 4
1 John 3:1-7
Luke 24:36b-48

April 25: Acts 4:5-12
Psalm 23
1 John 3:16-24
John 10:11-18



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. 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.

Here’s how to reach us: by telephone 673-3231, or by email info@ccamherst.org. If we are unavailable by phone, please feel free to leave a message 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.

Current Reopening Information: Are you wondering where things stand? Through the members section on our website, we have a page dedicated to communicating with our church family on both current policies and procedures for use of the building during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the progress of our ad hoc Reopening Team. Documents will be posted as they are made available. If you have any questions or concerns about any of this information, please reach out to any member of the team: Pastor Maureen Frescott, Jessica Greer, Pastor Kate Kennedy, Keith Lammers, Susan Manchester, Kathy Skoglund, Paul Spiess, Kate Thompson, Doug Topliffe, Sue Werst, Tom Werst.

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

Rev. Maureen R. Frescott

Sara L. Phelps

Michael Havay

Herb Archer

Gene Heighton

Sue Werst

Ministers to the World

Senior Pastor

Director of Music

Organist/Accompanist

Musician

Liturgist

Children's Time

TODAY IS FAITH PROMISE SUNDAY: Our new fiscal year **Stewardship Campaign** is ongoing. As of Friday, April 9, we have received pledges from 77 families, totaling \$197,163. Thanks to all that have responded so far. To those who are still considering your pledge, you can email your intents to Andrea at andrea@ccamherst.org, mail in your pledge intentions, call Andrea (673-3231) or go to the church website <https://www.ccamherst.org/stewardship-pledge/>.

JOIN US NEXT WEEK FOR CREATIVE WORSHIP, with special music, an engaging message presented in a creative way, and a focus theme to frame our worship. This year our overarching theme is BE THE CHURCH, the bold statements issued by the United Church of Christ to inspire us to live our faith in the world. In April our worship theme is **Protect the Environment**. The Creation Story we have in our Bible tells us that God gave humanity "dominion" over the earth – but what does this mean? How do we see our role in caring for God's Creation? We hope you can join us for this special service online!

SAVE THE DATE! The men's group will host an evening at the Fisher Cats baseball game just prior to Fathers Day, on **Wednesday, June 16**, for church members and friends. Details to follow.

SHARE FOOD PANTRY requests for April include toothbrushes, toothpaste, bar soap, deodorants, shampoo, conditioner, feminine hygiene products, diapers and wipes. Donations should be brought directly to the SHARE Center in Milford; if you are unsure where, please call their office at 673-9898. Many thanks for your continuing support!

Financial Summary

(as of February 28, 2021)

	YTD <u>Actual</u>	YTD <u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$318,228	\$286,120	\$ 32,108
Expenses	\$275,408	\$294,138	\$(18,730)
Net Income	\$ 42,820	\$(8,018)	\$ 50,838

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: Keith Lammers, Paul Spiess, Doug Topliffe, Todd Whitney and Tim Wiegand (Treasurer).

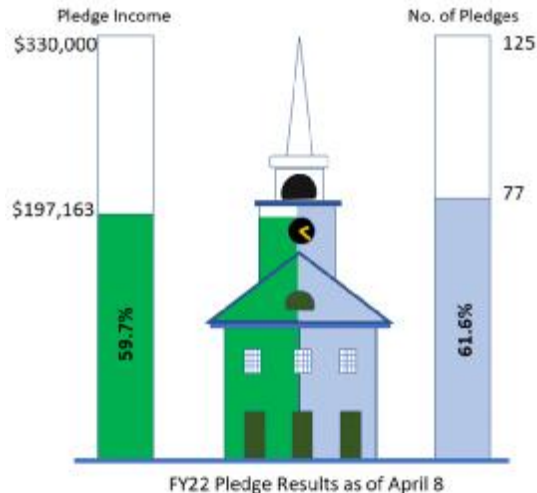
CHURCH SCHOOL: *The Road to Emmaus* (Luke 24:13-35) and *Doubting Thomas* (John 20:19-31) in the *Spark Story Bible* tells of Jesus appearing to friends on the road to Emmaus and to Thomas who has heard from his fellow disciples that Jesus has risen. These two stories recall those who did not believe had to see Jesus to believe. The power of faith creates our ability to believe in Jesus; however, as Christians we bring our faith to our community.

Today is Faith Promise Sunday: Church School children, with support from their families, pastors, church school teachers and friends, have kept their faith promise to follow in Jesus' footsteps. In conjunction with Heifer International, SHARE, worship, brown bag lessons, food donations, clothing donations, Christmas pageant and more, faith is giving, sharing, protecting, forgiving, being thankful, and more.

Sock It: Church School children are invited to donate new, unused socks for the "Pass Along Project," which serves children in foster care. Please contribute new tube socks in any child or youth sizes, and infant socks, to the "Sock It" bin outside the back door.

Parents, brown bag lessons will be distributed to those who have registered on SignUpGenius. **SignUpGenius** is waiting for you to sign up if you have not already done so: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d4caea62ea1f8c25-church1>

WE'RE ON INSTAGRAM! We have opened a page there, so do come and check it out! You'll need to create an Instagram account of your own first, on your smartphone by downloading the app, or on your PC. Then you can "follow" our page: **ccamherstnh**. You'll find some familiar faces, and it's a great way to stay in touch with what's going on.



Our Church Calendar

April 11—17, 2021

Most events are taking place virtually.

Links are sent out directly by email, and a list of recurring meetings with their links can be found in the member section of our website.

Today	10:00 a.m.	Worship
	11:00 a.m.	Fellowship
Monday	10:00 a.m.	Woman's Association
	6:00 p.m.	Budget & Finance Team
Tuesday	9:00 a.m.	Men's Fellowship
	7:00 p.m.	Diaconate
	7:00 p.m.	Trustees of the Facility
Wednesday	9:00 a.m.	Staff Meeting
	4:30 p.m.	Communications Team
Thursday	10:00 a.m.	Prayerful Playgroup
	3:00 p.m.	Saying Their Names
	5:00 p.m.	Reopening Team

Sunday, April 11, 2021