

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



*"No one sees trees. We see fruit, we see nuts, we see wood, we see shade.
We see ornaments or pretty fall foliage. Obstacles blocking the road
or wrecking the ski slope. Dark, threatening places that must be cleared.
We see branches about to crush our roof. We see a cash crop.
But trees - trees are invisible."*

- Richard Powers, *The Overstory*

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

May 2, 2021

Fifth Sunday of Easter

10:00 a.m.

PRELUDE

The Vineyard of the Lord

Dennis Eliot

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

One: The vine emerges from the earth,

Many: nourished and nourishing.

One: The vine rises without visible connection;

Many: roots hidden, promise unknown.

One: The vine is made strong to withstand storms,

Many: yet is fragile when plucked too soon.

One: So it is that we grow...

nourished by invisible connections to the living God,

**Many: Called to nourish that which is seen,
and that which is yet buried within.**

All: Let us worship our Creator God!

Let us pray:

Nurturing God, through your son, Jesus, the true vine,
we come to you needing your nourishment
for we too easily become dry and lifeless
without your life-giving Spirit.

Teach us to remain connected to you,
to find your life flowing in us
giving us strength and vigor and joy
as our lives are drawn closer to others.

As your church gathered today,
we give thanks for the branches of the past
and the fruit they have borne in our community and beyond.
Like them, help us to remain in you
that we may be fruitful and bring glory to your name.

May we feel your life-giving Spirit 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

Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above

verses 1, 2 & 4

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 15:1-8

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

SERMON

"Fruit Bearers"

ANTHEM

Bourree

Herb Archer, guitar solo

JOYS AND CONCERNS and PASTORAL PRAYER

INVITATION TO OUR OFFERING

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

For the blessings of this and all our days, we thank you, gracious God. We pray that you may use our time, our talent, our treasure, and our lives, freely offered in gratitude for all you have done for us. May every seed that we plant in your name take root and thrive, in this place and wherever you might take us. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

COMMUNION PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

BREAKING OF THE BREAD, POURING OF THE CUP

CONSECRATING PRAYER

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

COMMUNION PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (in unison)

We give thanks, loving God, for the bond of this ritual and communal meal that links us to all who have called upon your name. May your wisdom grow within us. May your word inspire us. May the nourishment of this bread and cup strengthen us for the journey, as you send us out into the world as people of courage, compassion, and commitment. Amen.

COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Easter Dialogue

Gilbert Martin

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

The Lectionary texts for the next two weeks are:



May 9: Acts 10:44-48
Psalm 98
1 John 5:1-6
1 John 15:9-17

May 16: Acts 1:15-17, 21-26
Psalm 1
1 John 5:9-13
John 17:6-19

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AMHERST, NH, UCC



**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.

The church office is reachable by telephone 673-3231, or by email info@ccamherst.org. 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.com/ccamherst and Instagram.com/ccamherstnh

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

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

*Portions of the liturgy have been adapted from Katherine Hawker
for the Evangelical United Church of Christ, posted on Liturgy
Outside, and the Rev. Fraser Penny, Minister of Dunkeld Parish
Church, posted on the Church of Scotland's Weekly Worship website.*

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Members and Friends of The Congregational Church

Rev. Maureen R. Frescott

Rev. Katherine R. Kennedy

Sara L. Phelps

Michael Havay

Herb Archer

Sue Ruggiero

Ministers to the World

Senior Pastor

Associate Pastor

Director of Music

Organist/Accompanist

Guitar

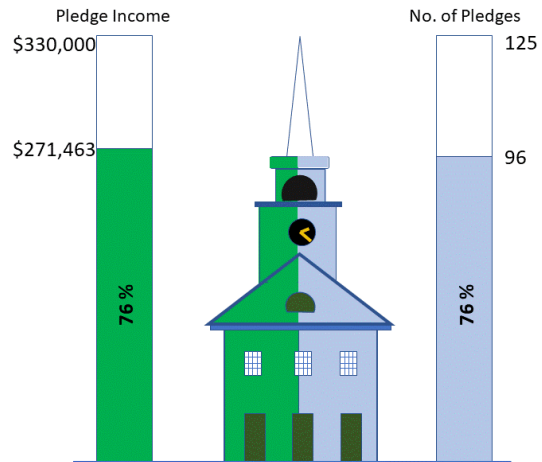
Liturgist

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are given by Liz MacMillan and Hamilton Stewart, in loving memory of family and friends.

HOME STARTER PROGRAM BATHROOM KITS DRIVE TODAY: "Back-to-Service"...what better way to celebrate returning to in-person worship than with a "back-to-service" service project! We are collecting bathroom items to assemble kits for those in need. Today's drive by collection will take place after worship until 1:00 p.m.

FISHER CATS BASEBALL: The church Men's Group is organizing another informal night out. Join us for a Fisher Cats baseball game at Northeast Delta Dental Stadium in Manchester on **Wednesday, June 16** at 6:35 p.m. Families and friends are welcome. Tickets cost \$12. (If the group purchase exceeds 20, ticket cost is reduced to \$9. The ticket and food special is \$11.25 which includes a large drink, hot dog and chips). Unless the state guidance changes we will be sitting in our own socially distanced pod. Contact Roger Hooper at Rhooper673@aol.com for tickets or with questions.

FAITH PROMISE: Our new fiscal year **Stewardship Campaign** is ongoing. As of Thursday, April 29, we have received pledges from 96 families, totaling \$271,463. 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/>.



FY22 Pledge Results as of April 29

LEVI SUNDAY IS MAY 16: Come by after morning worship and help us clean up our grounds. No inside work is planned—all work is outdoors. Projects include cleaning the parking lot of sand, cleaning church and parsonage flower beds and garden areas, general grounds clean up, spreading bark mulch, repairing rear fence (between parking lot and playground). Bring tools for the jobs you'd like to help with. Many hands make light work!

LITTLE FREE FARMSTAND ~ "Grow & Give"
 We are thrilled to provide more information about this exciting initiative. This summer, we are partnering with **SHARE** in Milford to make fresh produce and eggs readily available to the community. We invite local growers from Amherst and Milford (and surrounding towns) to share their excess produce on Sunday mornings. Families will come partake of the farm stand on Sunday afternoons, and anything not taken will go to the SHARE food pantry for their clients to select from during the week. Please visit our [Little Free Farmstand](#) page for more information and to sign up to help.

A DRIVE BY TO HELP FOSTER CHILDREN:
 Please help the Woman's Association meet the needs of children entering the New Hampshire Foster Care Program. The WA has organized a "drive by" donation opportunity for those who would like to help provide needed items for these children and their foster families. Items will be accepted on **Friday, May 14 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.** and on **Saturday, May 15 from noon to 3:00 p.m.** in front of the church. For information on what is needed, see the article in the *Spire* or the SOS page of the church website <https://www.ccamherst.org/sos/>.

IT'S TIME TO BUILD! It is **FINALLY** here! Our long postponed, long awaited **Sleep in Heavenly Peace Build Day!** You all have been so generous in your donations that we are now able to fund the building of 6 sets of bunk beds. We will be building the beds in the back parking lot on **Saturday, May 22 from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. (rain date Sunday, May 23, 1:00-5:00pm)** There is a job for everybody, and kids are most welcome! Don't worry if you don't have any experience - most of us don't! There will be a variety of stations, and the SHP crew will be guiding us in everything we do. Visit <https://www.ccamherst.org/sos/> for more information and to sign up to help. Questions? Contact Terri Behm terri.behm@gmail.com

SHARE FOOD PANTRY requests for May include canned ham, canned meats, side dishes (seasoned pasta mix, Hamburger Helper, etc.), ravioli and Beef-a-Roni. 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 March 31, 2021)			
	YTD	YTD	
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$337,597	\$315,689	\$ 21,908
Expenses	\$309,941	\$326,467	\$(16,527)
Net Income	\$ 27,657	\$(10,778)	\$ 38,435

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).

Sunday, May 2, 2021

Our Church Calendar

May 2—9, 2021

Many 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—Sanctuary
	10:00 a.m.	Worship—Online
	11:00 a.m.	Fellowship—Zoom
	4:00 p.m.	Senior High Youth Group
	7:00 p.m.	Small Group Ministry
Monday	9:30 a.m.	Woman's Association
Tuesday	9:00 a.m.	Men's Fellowship
	1:30 p.m.	Small Group Ministry
	6:00 p.m.	Church Council
Wednesday	10:00 a.m.	<i>A New Look at the Old Testament</i>
Thursday	10:00 a.m.	Prayerful Playgroup
	5:00 p.m.	Reopening Team