

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



“The friend in my adversity I shall always cherish most. I can better trust those who helped to relieve the gloom of my dark hours than those who are so ready to enjoy with me the sunshine of my prosperity.”

—Ulysses S. Grant

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

May 9, 2021

Sixth Sunday of Easter

10:00 a.m.

PRELUDE

Meirionydd (The Voice of God is Calling)

Mahlon Balderston

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

One: We gather to give thanks for God's remarkable gifts
of creating and redeeming love,

Many: The love that casts out all fear.

One: For the love that frees us to ask questions and explore,
to frame doubts and investigate new possibilities,

Many: We thank you, God of adventurous love.

One: For the love that helps us to communicate with one another,
to express trust and respect, share heartaches and visions,
to convey grace and mercy.

Many: We thank you, God of reconciling love.

One: For the love that inspires us to warmly encourage those around us,
to affirm and build up, comfort and enlighten.

Many: We thank you, God of nurturing love.

All: Let us worship our God of unconditional and bountiful Love!

Let us pray:

God of vision and creation, we are grateful for the love that liberates us to celebrate the world around us in worship and in service, in poetry and in song, in intricacies and patterns, in awesome forces and deep mysteries. We bring our whole selves and our broken selves before you now, so that your love might lift us, guide us, heal us, comfort us, and challenge us. May we love as you love.

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

God of Grace and God of Glory
verses 1, 2 & 5

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 15:9-17

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love.

If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you.

I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father.

You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

SERMON

"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

ANTHEM

I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry

John Ylvisaker

JOYS AND CONCERNS and PASTORAL PRAYER

INVITATION TO OUR OFFERING

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

Generous God, we give back to you from the abundance you have allowed us to manage for you while we are on this earth. May it be enough to draw us closer to you and to all whom we seek to serve. May this offering become a refuge for those most in need of a friend to hold onto, and may it become an extension of your love in this community and your world. Amen.

COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Diane Bish

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

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 Bruce Prewer,
<http://www.bruceprewer.com/>*

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
 Sue Stout

Ministers to the World

Senior Pastor
 Associate Pastor
 Director of Music
 Organist/Accompanist
 Liturgist

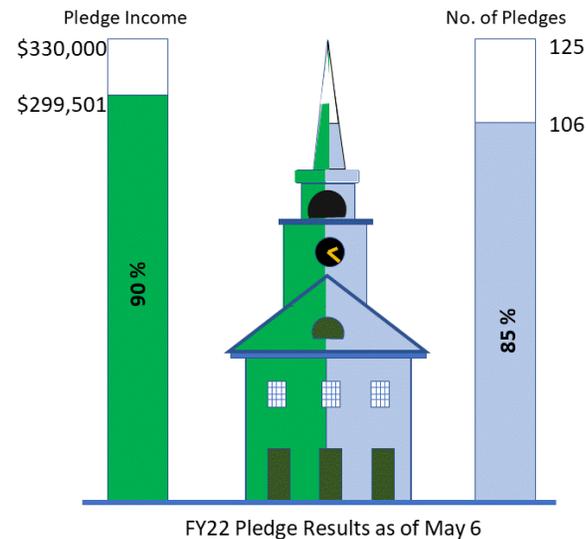
THE TULIPS ON THE ALTAR are from Sue Stout's gardens at church.

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 [SOS - Congregational Church of Amherst, NH \(ccamherst.org\)](https://www.ccamherst.org/SOS-Congregational-Church-of-Amherst-NH).

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!

FAITH PROMISE: Our new fiscal year **Stewardship Campaign** is ongoing. As of Thursday, May 6, we have received pledges from 106 families, totaling \$299,501. 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/>.



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 [farmstand – Congregational Church of Amherst, NH \(ccamherst.org\)](http://farmstand-Congregational Church of Amherst, NH (ccamherst.org)) for more information and to sign up to help.

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.

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 [SOS – Congregational Church of Amherst, NH \(ccamherst.org\)](http://SOS – Congregational Church of Amherst, NH (ccamherst.org)) 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!

The Lectionary texts for the next two weeks are:



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

May 23: Acts 2:1-21 or *Ezekiel 37:1-14*
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Romans 8:22-27 or *Acts 2:1-21*
John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

CHURCH SCHOOL: Enjoy This Life—Serve and Follow, *“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father.”* (John 15:12-14 NRSV)

Church School has nurtured Jesus’ words, *“...but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father.”* Friends share and the actions of our innocent youngest among us follow the words brought to us through Jesus from God. We all remember and see children sharing their possessions and goodies, without hesitation, from the heart. Friends are there for us and we are there for them, in one way or another we are friends.

Church School has piggybacked on the **WA’S SOCK IT** collection calling for donations of socks for our youngest in need. A box has been placed at the entrance to our church outside. Donations have already been received, but we can always take in more.

Today is Mother’s Day – keep the day special: *“Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.”* (Exodus 20:12); *“Give her a share in the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the city gates.”* (Proverbs 31:31 NRSV)

Children’s Sunday is May 16. Join us at 11:30 a.m. outdoors behind the church. All are invited to celebrate our church school, its teachers, our pastors, our Christian Ministry team, and our congregation. Join us for games, treats, and food.

Our Church Calendar

May 9—15, 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 |
| Monday | 10:00 a.m. Woman’s Association |
| 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 6:00 p.m. Budget & Finance Team |
| Thursday | 3:00 p.m. Racial Justice Group |
| Friday | 4:00 p.m. Drive By for Pass Along Project |
| Saturday | 12:00 p.m. Drive By for Pass Along Project |

Financial Summary

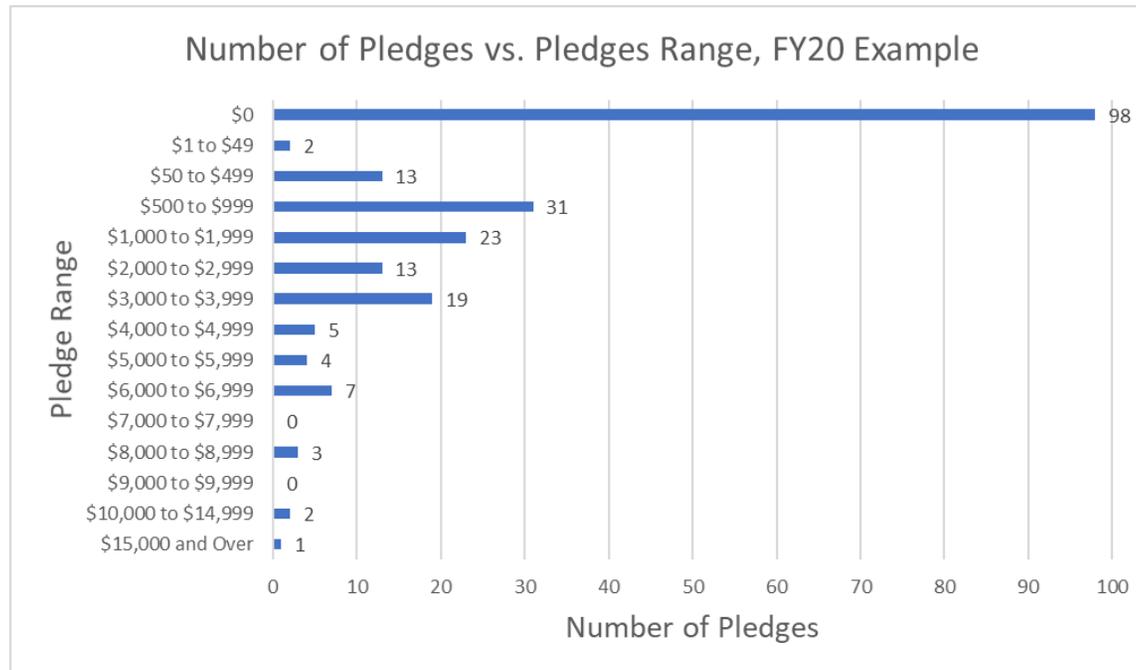
(as of March 31, 2021)

| | YTD <u>Actual</u> | YTD <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 9, 2021



Greetings from your perpetually pushy Stewardship Committee!

Spring is here! You know how we know? The sun has finally shown its face, there are gorgeous buds on the trees, and your faithful stewardship committee is asking/reminding/cajoling/imploring you all to make your pledges! We all understand that this has not been a normal year and everyone's calendars have blurred from season to season.

It's easy to forget. But please, we ask of all of you:

- 1) If you have already pledged - Thank you. If you have had a fortunate year and would consider increasing your gift that would be great! (Golly, will this Stewardship Committee ever let up?)
- 2) If you haven't pledged, here's how you can do it....like right now.
 - a) Call Andrea at 673 3231 (Feel free to leave a message if she isn't there)
 - b) Email Andrea at andrea@ccamherst.org
 - c) Make your pledge here: [Stewardship Pledge – Congregational Church of Amherst, NH \(ccamherst.org\)](http://ccamherst.org/Stewardship-Pledge-Congregational-Church-of-Amherst-NH)
- 3) If you can't make a pledge – we completely understand. But if you could drop Andrea a note to let us know it would be helpful and...bonus...you will get to read less of these.

Thanks to all,
Your Stewardship Team