

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



Praying
by Mary Oliver

It doesn't have to be
the blue iris, it could be
weeds in a vacant lot, or a few
small stones; just
pay attention, then patch

a few words together and don't try
to make them elaborate, this isn't
a contest but the doorway

into thanks, and a silence in which
another voice may speak.

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

March 20, 2022

Creative Worship

10:00 a.m.

Pray Often

GATHERING CHIMES

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

GREETING AND NOTICES OF PARISH LIFE

PRELUDE

Prelude on "Detroit" (Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive)

Randolph Currie

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Good morning, God. Be with us in prayer, as we pray the way your son taught us, saying:

Many: Our Father, who art in heaven,

One: May we know you through your Word,
And never use your name in vain.

Many: Hallowed be thy name.

One: Use us to extend your kingdom of grace to others,

Many: Thy kingdom come.

One: And help us to align our actions with your will for us,
just as the angels and saints have done before us.

Many: Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

One: Since you are the provider of all things necessary for our bodies,
fill us with trust.

Many: Give us this day our daily bread.

One: Forgive us when we stray,
and empower us to forgive those who wrong us.

**Many: And forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors.**

One: Help us to avoid the traps of the world,
And remind us that sin is a poison to our souls.

Many: And lead us not into temptation.

One: Keep all of us—body, mind, and spirit—safe from all that seeks to cause us harm.

Many: But deliver us from evil.

One: And preserve our faith in your plans for us, your protection over us, and your love for us,
which surpasses all understanding.

**All: For thine is the kingdom,
and the power,
and the glory forever. Amen.**

LENTEN LITANY OF CONFESSION and WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: God, you provide beyond our imagination

All: and yet somehow, not quite up to our expectation.

One: We desire so many things, forgetting your desires.

All: Forgive us when we act as if your giving is restricted to our pleasure.

Forgive us when we try to ration your abundance.

Forgive us when we fail to share your generosity.

One: Fill us again, O God, with your goodness, and nurture our faith,

All: that we may grow in your love.

One: Do you think that because you have spoken hurtfully, or failed to help, or left God behind as you travel through each day, that God forgets you? God's love is as constant as the sun; God's forgiveness is as sure as the stars in the night sky.

All: Thanks be to God, who loves us more than we know. Amen.

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 6:5-15

'And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

'When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

'Pray then in this way:

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

Your will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts,

as we also have forgiven our debtors.

And do not bring us to the time of trial,

but rescue us from the evil one.

For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

SERMON

“Heard by God”

ANTHEM

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

Sara Phelps, soprano

Michael Havay, organ

JOYS AND CONCERNS and DOODLE PRAYER

If you have a prayer to share, fill out a prayer card in your pew and place it in the “Joys and Concerns” plate at the back of the sanctuary. Ushers will bring the cards forward to the pastor during the Anthem.

We pray all 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.

ORGAN PRAYER RESPONSE

INVITATION TO OUR OFFERING

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

Holy One, may this offering be a prayer. Through this act of giving, may we center our hearts and minds on you above all things. Through this practice of generosity, may we be in closer communication with you, who made us and wants what is good for us and for the whole world. Amen.

*COMMISSION AND BLESSING

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*POSTLUDE

Postlude on “The Glory of These Forty Days”

Matthew McConnell

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

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

*Portions of this liturgy are borrowed from the writings of
Rev. Teri Peterson, the Presbyterian Church of Palatine, IL.*

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.

Worship Notes:

- Church school is available for children Pre-K through grade 7.
- Our church nursery is open, but not currently staffed, and is available when parents with young children feel the need for a quiet, safe space to go to during worship. A monitor is available to watch and listen to the service.
- Joys and Concerns may be written on the cards found on the small table as you entered the sanctuary. You are also welcome to submit your prayer request through our website in advance of the worship service.
- Offering plates can be found at the front and the rear of the sanctuary.
- Please join us in the community room for a time of fellowship after the worship service. Coffee and beverages are offered, and masks are required when not consuming beverages.
- 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 church school.

The church office is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10:00 to 1:00 p.m., and available Monday through Friday by telephone 673-3231 and 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

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
 Mark and Fran Baddeley
 Patricia Bodan

Ministers to the World
 Senior Pastor
 Associate Pastor
 Director of Music
 Organist/Accompanist
 Deacons in Charge
 Videographer

Wendy Valeri
 Gretchen Davis

Bell Choir Director
 Interim Children's Coordinator

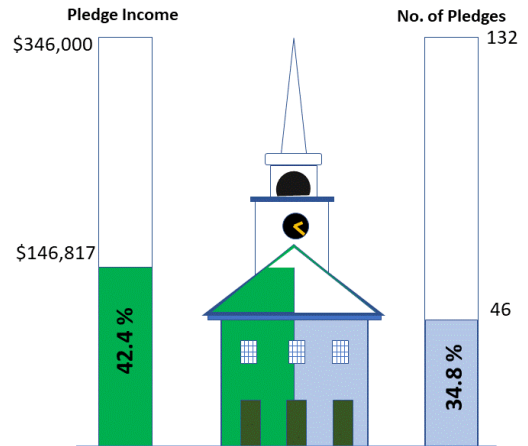
LENTEN STUDY SERIES: For five Wednesday evenings during Lent we will gather on Zoom to discuss **Kate Bowler's and Jessica Ritchie's** wonderful book: *Good Enough: 40ish Devotionals For a Life of Imperfection*.

Written gently and with humor, *Good Enough* is a devotional with short entries that are designed to be read each day during the 40 days of Lent. The book offers daily reassurance for all those who need to hear that there are some things we can fix—and some things we can't. And it's okay that life isn't always better.

Pastor Maureen and Pastor Kate will alternate as facilitators of the sessions. We have sold out of our copies in the office, but the book is available to purchase on Amazon. Each session will focus on the daily devotions for the previous seven days. If you don't have the time or the space to add a daily reading to your plate join us anyway! We'll pull out quotes and passages to seed our discussion and all are welcome to participate!

RSVP to pastormaureen@ccamherst.org to receive the Zoom link, or find it on our church website in the member's section.

FAITH PROMISE: Our 2022-2023 fiscal year **Stewardship Campaign** is underway. As of Thursday, March 17, we have received pledges from 46 families, totaling \$146,817. Thank you 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/>



FY23 Pledge Results as of March 17

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN for our VBS Discovery on Adventure Island 2022! Children from preschool to rising fifth grade can register at www.myvbs.org/CCAmherst.

But why should we let the kids have all the fun? We are also in need of adults and/or teenagers that would like to help us out during the week of August 15-19. We are still in need of a toddler class coordinator, decorators, island guides and more. Please contact Gretchen Davis at churchschool@ccamherst.org if you are interested.

SHARE FOOD PANTRY requests for March include pancake mix and syrup, condiments, cooking sauces and seasonings, cooking oils, jelly, and cold cereal. 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, 2022)

	YTD <u>Actual</u>	YTD <u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$308,159	\$308,561	\$ (402)
Expenses	\$305,148	\$304,207	\$ 941
Net Income	\$ 3,011	\$ 4,354	\$ (1,344)

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).

Family Game Night & Potluck Supper Saturday, April 2 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.



Our annual Family Game Night and Potluck Supper is back! **All ages, friends and community are welcome.** Games will be provided, however if you have a favorite game, please bring it with you.

The evening begins at 5:00 p.m. with supper, followed by games for everyone, including ping pong and Bingo.

Members of the Fellowship Team will bring pizza and beverages. If your last name begins with A through L, please bring a salad or side dish to share; M through Z, please bring a desert.

Please note that all current COVID protocols apply: masks will be required when not eating or drinking.

We are looking forward to the return of this special intergenerational event of community, connection and camaraderie. We truly hope you will join us!

The Lectionary texts for the next two weeks are:



March 27 Isaiah 55:1-9
Fourth Sunday in Lent

April 3 John 12:1-8
Fifth Sunday in Lent

Sunday, March 20, 2022



LOVE REMAINS

What is One Great Hour of Sharing®?

One Great Hour of Sharing, as part of Our Church's Wider Mission, is the special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that carries God's message of love and hope to people in crisis. The UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water, food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons, and emergency relief and rehabilitation. OGHS also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response. You can donate online on our church website (please put OGHS in the memo line) or use the pew envelopes, or send a check to Andrea, made out to the *Congregational Church of Amherst*, with *OGHS* in the memo line. Thank you for your caring and generous donations!

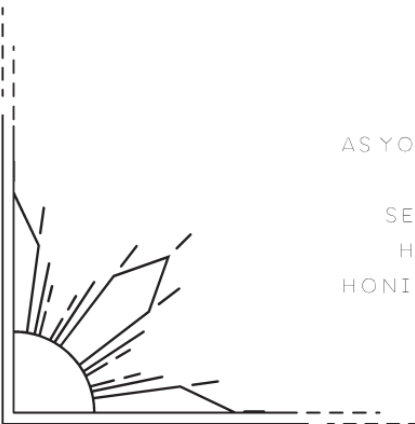
Our Church Calendar

March 20—26, 2022

Some 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	9:50 a.m.	Church School
	10:00 a.m.	Worship
	11:00 a.m.	Fellowship
	11:30 a.m.	Christian Ed
	2:00 p.m.	Middle High Youth Group
	4:00 p.m.	Senior High Youth Group
Monday	10:00 a.m.	Woman's Association
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Staff Meeting
	6:30 p.m.	Lenten Study Series
Thursday	6:00 p.m.	Bell Choir
	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir

DOODLE PRAYER



AS YOU PRAY, DOODLE THE NAME, PASSAGE, OR
IMAGE ON YOUR HEART.

SEE HOW THE PRACTICE OF DOODLING
HELPS YOU FOCUS ON YOUR PRAYER,
HONING IN ON GOD'S QUITE MESSAGE TO YOU.