

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



*“You have made us for yourself, O Lord,
and our heart is restless until it rests in you.”*

– Augustine of Hippo, Confessions

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

March 27, 2022

Fourth 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

Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy

Marilyn Thompson

CALL TO WORSHIP and THE LORD'S PRAYER

One: Home is a place of rest.

Many: Our home is found in God.

One: Home is a sense of peace.

Many: Our home is found in God.

One: Home is a generous welcome.

Many: Our home is found in God.

One: Home is refuge from fear.

Many: Our home is found in God.

One: Home is an open table.

Many: Our home is found in God.

One: Home is an end to eternal longing.

Many: Our home is found in God.

One: Our God of all places and people,

**Many: is not bound by walls,
or limited by borders and barriers.**

One: In our worship, may we open our eyes

**Many: to see ourselves at home in God,
wherever we are and whatever our experiences.**

One: May we recognize our neighbors,

**Many: as our fellow travelers and co-habitants,
as we come together in Jesus' name.**

One: Gracious and loving God, we recognize your Spirit moving among us now,
as we pray the words that Jesus taught us:

Many: 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 and WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: Our Creator God,
You have set before us the path

**Many: but we have wandered on our own
to try to find our way.**

One: Sometimes we are like toddlers
and we hear your call and come back.

**Many: Other times, we are children testing boundaries,
ignoring your call until fear finally makes us look back.**

One: And still other times we are full of youthful rebellion,
demanding to be cut loose and set free,

**Many: not knowing how much we still need
to seek your wisdom and guidance.**

One: But most of all, too often we think we are fully grown

**Many: and have figured it all our and know our own way,
only to stumble and stray so far.**

One: Remind us, Mother and Father God,

**Many: that we are always your children,
that we always have much to learn.**

One: Help us to seek you every day,

**Many: to acknowledge that we need your wisdom and guidance,
and help us to return to the path and walk with you.**

One: People of God, hear this good news.

God rolls away everything that stands in our way –
our past, our pain, our hesitation,
and reshapes us into new people living in the new creation.

**Many: Broken, we are made whole;
Lost, we are brought home;
Empty, we are filled with grace.
We rejoice and give thanks to God. Amen.**

OUR COVENANT WITH NEW MEMBERS

Invitation to our New Members:

Sarah and Thomas Pyle

Questions of Commitment

*Congregational Covenant and Welcome (in unison)

We welcome you with joy in the common mission and life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as together we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of Jesus' ministry in the world.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Greeting and Presentation of Certificates

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 55:1-9

Ho, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;
and you that have no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.
Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.
Incline your ear, and come to me;
listen, so that you may live.
I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.
See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.
See, you shall call nations that you do not know,
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel,
for he has glorified you.

Seek the Lord while he may be found,
call upon him while he is near;
let the wicked forsake their way,
and the unrighteous their thoughts;

let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.
For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

SERMON

“Lenten Feast”

ANTHEM

He Never Said a Word
Bell Choir

JOYS AND CONCERNS and PASTORAL 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.

ORGAN PRAYER RESPONSE

SHARING OUR OFFERINGS

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 steadying rock to hold on, and may it become an extension of your love in this community and your world. Amen.

*COMMISSION AND BLESSING

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*POSTLUDE

You Shall Go Out With Joy!

Douglas E. Wagner

(*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.*

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 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
 Michael Havay
 Wendy Valeri
 Mark and Fran Baddeley
 Tim Wiegand

Ministers to the World
 Senior Pastor
 Associate Pastor
 Organist/Accompanist
 Bell Choir Director
 Deacons in Charge
 Videographer

Sara L. Phelps
 Gretchen Davis

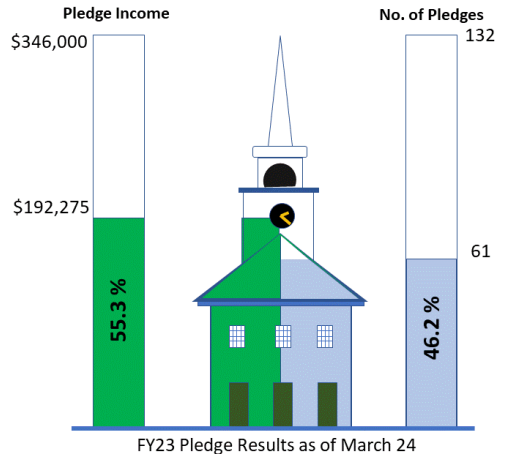
Director of Music
 Interim Children's Coordinator

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!

FAITH PROMISE: Our 2022-2023 fiscal year **Stewardship Campaign** is underway. As of Thursday, March 24, we have received pledges from 61 families, totaling \$192,275. 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/>



Sunday, March 27, 2022

Financial Summary

(as of February 28, 2022)

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Difference
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).

Our Church Calendar

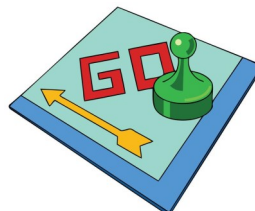
March 27—April 2, 2022

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
	4:00 p.m.	Senior High Youth Group
Monday	10:00 a.m.	Woman's Association
Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	World Service Team
Wednesday	6:30 p.m.	Lenten Study Series
Thursday	6:00 p.m.	Bell Choir
	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir
Saturday	5:00 p.m.	Game Night & Potluck Supper

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!