

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



“Courage is the most important of all the virtues because without courage, you can't practice any other virtue consistently.”

— Maya Angelou

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

April 24, 2022

Second Sunday of Easter

10:00 a.m.

Creative Worship—"Have Courage"

GATHERING CHIMES

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

GREETING AND NOTICES OF PARISH LIFE

PRELUDE

Adoration

Florence B. Price

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The tomb was found empty!

Many: And we are amazed!

One: Jesus has risen!

Many: And we are rejoicing!

One: But still we may question if we believe.

Many: We may question whether we have the courage to believe.

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

Many: And our hearts are singing!

One: "Blessed are those have not seen yet come to believe!"

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

PRAYER OF INVOCATION and THE LORD'S PRAYER (unison)

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 kingdom 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.

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 20:19-31

SERMON

“Have Courage”

*HYMN

That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright

No. 121

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

Intermezzo from Sixty Short Pieces

Flor Peeters

SHARING OUR OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY MUSIC

*Christ lag in Todesbanden , BWV 625
(Christ lay in the hands of death)*

J. S. Bach

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (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 enable us in your service. Amen.

*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

One: Go out into the world in peace.

Many: Have courage.

One: Hold onto what is good.

Many: Return no one evil for evil.

One: Strengthen the faint-hearted.

Many: Help the suffering.

One: Honor all persons.

Many: Honor all creation.

One: Love and serve God,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Many: And may the love of God,
the Light of Christ,
and the power and communion of that Spirit
be with us all.
Amen.**

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*POSTLUDE

Christ, the Lord, Is Risen Today (Easter Hymn)

Robert W. Thygerson

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

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 on break this week for school vacation. Young children are welcome to choose an activity from our **"A Child in Church" Basket** to bring to the pew with their families.
- 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.
- Please remember to wear your nametag each Sunday, so that we may all greet our neighbors. If you are in need of a nametag, please see one of the deacons.
- Please join us in the community room for a time of fellowship after the worship service. Coffee and other refreshments are offered.
- 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
 Sandra LaBarge-Neumann
 Gail Wiegand
 Fran Baddeley
 Sally Bowkett, Avis Moller
 Doug Topliffe

Ministers to the World

Senior Pastor
 Guest Organist
 Deacon in Charge
 Liturgist
 Ushers
 Videographer

Rev. Katherine R. Kennedy
 Sara L. Phelps
 Michael Havay
 Wendy Valeri
 Gretchen Davis

Associate Pastor
 Director of Music
 Organist/Accompanist
 Bell Choir Director
 Interim Children's Coordinator

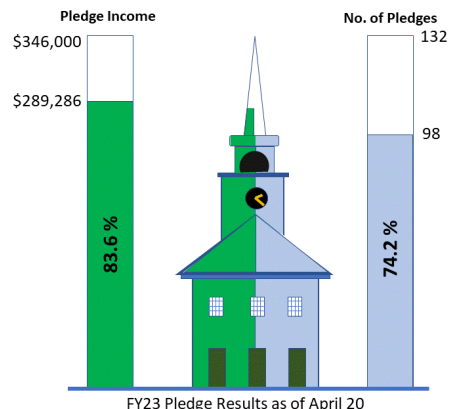
100 ENVELOPES—A SHYG FUNDRAISER!

This year's Senior High Youth Group Mission Trip is in Austin, TX. From June 19-24, our SHYG will be working with an organization called Reach Beyond Mission, serving those facing food insecurity and learning all about the injustice of food insecurity in our country.

You can help! With rising inflation, this year's trip will be a little bit pricier than trips past. The SHYG's 100 Envelopes fundraiser launches TODAY. In the community room, you will find a bulletin board display of envelopes numbered 1 to 100. Think about how much you'd like to donate to the SHYG mission trip, and grab an envelope (or a combination of envelopes) with that number on it! Want to give \$35, but envelope #35 is taken? Get creative and snag envelopes #32 and #3!

Thank you so much for your support!

FAITH PROMISE: Our 2022-2023 fiscal year **Stewardship Campaign** is underway. As of Thursday, April 21, we have received pledges from 98 families, totaling \$289,286. 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/>



HELP NEEDED FOR THE WA GOOD STUFF SALE: You are invited to pitch in to help make this sale a success! Wednesday (4/27) and Thursday (4/28) any time between 9:30 and 1:00 to help set up for the sale. Friday (4/29) from 3:45 to 7:00 to help with the sale. Saturday (4/30) beginning at noon to help with cleanup and transporting unsold merchandise to Goodwill.

To sign up to help or for more information, contact Carol Lyon 603-759-3691 or cml750@comcast.net, or Sally Bowkett 603-673-7409 or sbb46@hotmail.com.

Everyone is invited to check out the Good Stuff Sale, Friday, April 29 - 4 to 7 p.m. and Saturday, April 30 - 9 a.m. to noon in the Community Room and the Vestry.

JOIN THE CHURCH SCHOOL in Celebrating Screen-Free Week—May 1-7: Screen-Free Week is an international celebration held in schools, churches, and whole communities. It's an opportunity to unplug (after school and work responsibilities are done) for other types of entertainment, connection and fun!

Even though it's about going without screens, it isn't about going without—it's about what we get! More time with our family. Siblings getting along better! More time outdoors! More time reading or playing board games! Better sleep! For people of faith, it's also an opportunity to remove distractions and spiritual roadblocks and seek out what is meaningful in our lives—feeling more joy and wonder.

But wait there is more! Friday May 6th, Church School will be hosting a Family Fun Night from 6-8pm. Join us here at the church for a campfire, outdoor glow stick games and s'mores! We will wrap up our screen free week with an evening of fun for everyone.

Look for our table in the Community Room during the Fellowship hour to grab some great resources like Screen-Free Bingo and a list of 1-1 Screen-Free Activities. To pledge with families and individuals around the world, visit www.screen-free.org.

ANNUAL MEETING: Save the date! This year's annual meeting will be on Sunday, May 15 in the sanctuary after worship. All members are encouraged to attend; child care will be available.

NURSERY COORDINATOR NEEDED: The position of Nursery Coordinator was created to provide consistent, quality care to children in our nursery during worship. This person may also provide care before and after worship for children through secondnd grade whose parents are involved in choir, worship preparation, or adult education programs.

The Nursery Coordinator, as a part time employee of the church, will be on site from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. each Sunday of the normal church schedule (10:00 a.m. worship). The position will pay \$15.50/hour. This position will start on Rally Sunday, September 11, 2022.

Applicants for this position should be 18 years of age or older.

If you have any questions about the position, Sue Werst is the CE Ministry Coordinator and the point person for this position.

Financial Summary (as of March 31, 2022)

	YTD <u>Actual</u>	YTD <u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$327,019	\$337,104	\$(10,085)
Expenses	\$336,440	\$339,956	\$ (3,517)
Net Income	\$ (9,421)	\$ (2,853)	\$ (6,568)

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, April 24, 2022



Announcing the Return of the Good Stuff Sale!

**Friday, April 29, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. and
Saturday, April 30 from 9:00 a.m. to noon**

After a two-year break, the Woman's Association will resume the traditional Good Stuff Sale (formerly Rummage Sale) this spring, with some modifications. This sale will NOT include clothing but will include other favorites: toys, books, games, household goods, decorative items, jewelry, handbags, linens and more.

Eliminating the clothing portion of the sale will allow the merchandise to be spread throughout the Community Room and Vestry, giving shoppers more room to browse and buy. Everything will be sold at very reasonable prices!

Our Church Calendar

April 24—30, 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	10:00 a.m.	Worship
	11:00 a.m.	Fellowship
Monday	10:00 a.m.	Woman's Association
Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	World Service Team
Thursday	6:00 p.m.	Bell Choir
Friday	4:00 p.m.	Good Stuff Sale
Saturday	9:00 a.m.	Good Stuff Sale