

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



“People don't change, they come closer and closer to who they really are.”

— Faraaz Kazi

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

May 1, 2022

Third Sunday of Easter

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

Canticle of Praise

Fenton Groden

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: To the fisherman Jesus said:

All: "Follow me."

One: To the tax collector Jesus said:

All: "Follow me."

One: At the last supper Jesus said:

All: "Follow me."

One: After the resurrection, Jesus said:

All: "Follow me."

One: To saints and apostles, Jesus says:

All: "Follow me."

One: To sinners and oppressors, Jesus says:

All: "Follow me."

One: To you and to me and to all of us Jesus says:

All: Follow me!

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

Lord God of every age, you seek no more and no less from us than to follow your commandments, and live lives of faith and integrity. And yet, like Saul before you met him on the road, we forget to listen for your voice. In our zeal, we forge ahead on our own way since we cannot imagine another. We close our eyes to your image shining in the faces of the wrong people. We close our ears to your word coming from those with whom we disagree. We close our hearts against those who are different in the wrong ways. Instead we offer advice, or ultimatums, or patronizing help, when what you desire is relationship, compassion, and justice. Forgive us, God. Join us here in this worship service so that our hearts may be moved and our minds opened to all the new ways we can become closer to you. We pray all this in Jesus's name, 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.

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Acts 9:1-6, (7-20)

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?' He asked, 'Who are you, Lord?' The reply came, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.' The men who were travelling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, 'Ananias.' He answered, 'Here I am, Lord.' The Lord said to him, 'Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.' But Ananias answered, 'Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name.' But the Lord said to him, 'Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.' So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, 'Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.' And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, 'He is the Son of God.'

SERMON

"Why Saul?"

ANTHEM

Be Thou My Vision

Alice Parker

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

INVITATION TO OUR OFFERING

OFFERTORY MUSIC

The Strife is O'er

*DOXOLOGY (Tune: *From All That Dwell Below the Skies*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below. Alleluia, Alleluia.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

Lord Jesus, we receive abundance from your hand, and we present a portion of that abundance for your worship. Be present among us as we share with others, that all your people may be provided for and your blessing may be revealed to everyone. We pray this in your holy name. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

We welcome all people to join in receiving this sacrament. Children may participate at the discretion of their parents.

COMMUNION PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

BREAKING OF THE BREAD, POURING OF THE CUP

CONSECRATING PRAYER

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

Communion at CCA is open to anyone who would like to partake. When you receive the bread, eat at your own pace, symbolizing our individual relationship with God. When you receive the juice, drink with the whole congregation, symbolizing our communion as the Body of Christ. The bread is gluten, egg, and dairy free and the juice is non-alcoholic, so that there may be no barriers to Christ's table.

ORGAN MEDITATION

Meditation

Georges Jacob

COMMUNION PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (unison)

Spirit of Christ, you have blessed our tables and our lives. May the eating of this Bread and the drinking of this Cup give us courage to speak and act with love, not only in church sanctuaries, but out in your precious world. Wrap your hopeful presence around all whose bodies, spirits and hearts need healing, and may we become your compassionate and safe refuge for all. Amen.

*HYMN

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

No. 464

COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

POSTLUDE

Alleluia - #10 from 12 Pieces for Organ

Georges A.P. Jacob

(*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 the liturgy have been adapted from the Rev. Kathleen Sheets
and the Rev. Teri Peterson, posted on [Liturgy Link](#).*

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.
- Please remember to wear your nametag each Sunday, so that we may all greet our neighbors. If you do not have a permanent nametag, temporary nametags may be found inside the friendship registers. If you are in need of a new, permanent 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 beverages 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. Katherine R. Kennedy

Sara L. Phelps

Michael Havay

John Swanson

Gail Wiegand

Andrea Cyr

Ministers to the World

Associate Pastor

Director of Music

Organist/Accompanist

Deacon in Charge

Liturgist

Videographer

Rev. Maureen R. Frescott

Wendy Valeri

Gretchen Davis

Senior Pastor

Bell Choir Director

Interim Children's Coordinator

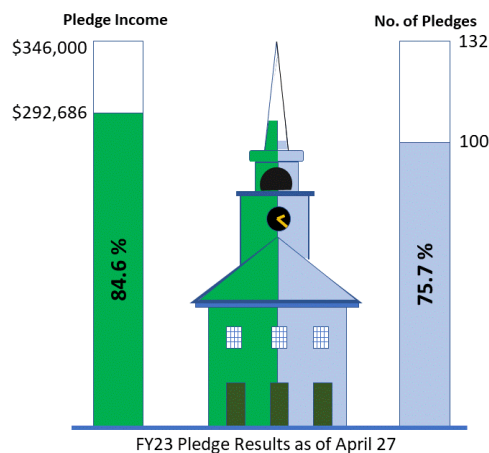
JOIN THE CHURCH SCHOOL in Celebrating Screen-Free Week—May 1-7: Screen-Free Week is an international celebration held in schools, churches, and whole communities. It's an opportunity to unplug (after school and work responsibilities are done) for other types of entertainment, connection and fun!

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.

FAITH PROMISE: Our 2022-2023 fiscal year **Stewardship Campaign** is underway. As of Wednesday, April 27, we have received pledges from 100 families, totaling \$292,686. 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, May 1, 2022

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!

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.

CALL TO ANNUAL MEETING: In accordance with the By-laws of the Congregational Church of Amherst, NH United Church of Christ, the call for the Annual Meeting is hereby made for Sunday morning, May 15, 2022, immediately following worship services. The items to be discussed and voted upon are as follows:

1. To hear and act upon the 2022-2023 church budget as presented.
2. To hear and act upon the Nominating Committee report.
3. To hear and act upon such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

Your officers and council members look forward to your attendance and input at this important meeting. Childcare will be provided.

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	9:50 a.m.	Church School
	10:00 a.m.	Worship
	11:00 a.m.	Fellowship
	11:15 a.m.	Parent’s Group
	12:30 p.m.	Small Group Ministry
	4:00 p.m.	Senior High Youth Group
Monday	10:00 a.m.	Woman’s Association
Tuesday	1:30 p.m.	Small Group Ministry
	5:00 p.m.	Church Council
Wednesday	6:00 p.m.	How to Write a Sermon
Thursday	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir
Friday	6:00 p.m.	Family Fun Night
Saturday	11:00 a.m.	Memorial Service for Ed Ikerd