

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



*“Don't ask yourself what the world needs.
Ask yourself what makes you come alive, and go do that,
because what the world needs is people who have come alive.”*

— Howard Thurman

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

May 29, 2022

Seventh 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

*Fantasy on "Mit Freuden Zart"
(With Tender Joy)*

Richard A. Williamson

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Here in this service, we answer the call to worship,

Many: Coming to this place to thank God for all the good things in our lives.

One: We answer the call to pray,

Many: Coming to this place to ask God to strengthen, heal, and forgive us.

One: We answer the call to sing,

Many: Coming to this place to join our voices as one, and feel the power of this community.

One: We answer the call to serve,

Many: Coming to this place to build God's kin-dom on earth.

All: Let our worship empower us to live into the call of God.

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

Holy God, you who made us and love us unconditionally, join us here for this time of worship. We do not come here as blank slates ready to be written upon. Rather, we carry all of our joys and disappointments, fears and failures, to-do lists and distractions, hopes and questions into this hour with us. With this in mind, we pray that this service meets us where we are and brings us closer to you. May this service enlighten something within ourselves that is shadowed. May this service uplift something within ourselves that is downtrodden. May this service fertilize something within ourselves that needs new growth. 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.

***THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**

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

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Ephesians 4:11–14

New Century Version (NCV)

And Christ gave gifts to people—he made some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to go and tell the Good News, and some to have the work of caring for and teaching God’s people. Christ gave those gifts to prepare God’s holy people for the work of serving, to make the body of Christ stronger. This work must continue until we are all joined together in the same faith and in the same knowledge of the Son of God. We must become like a mature person, growing until we become like Christ and have his perfection.

Then we will no longer be babies. We will not be tossed about like a ship that the waves carry one way and then another. We will not be influenced by every new teaching we hear from people who are trying to fool us. They make plans and try any kind of trick to fool people into following the wrong path.

SERMON

“Answer the Call”

ANTHEM

A New Song
Sara Phelps, soloist

Tina English

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 RESPONSE

SHARING OUR OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY MUSIC

An Ascension Canticle

Valeriy Antonyuk

***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)**

Gracious and holy God, accept what we offer today: our checks and cash, our time and talent, our faltering steps, our brokenness, our leftovers, our hopes, our lives. Bless and transform all that we offer, and all that we hold back, that new life may be ours to celebrate and share in Jesus’ name. Amen.

*HYMN

Eternal Father, Strong to Save
one verse only

No. 562

*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*POSTLUDE

Go Therefore

Robert F. Smith

(*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.*

Our Church Calendar

May 29—June 4, 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
Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	World Service Team
Thursday	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class Dinner and Rehearsal

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

Susan Holden

Sara L. Phelps

Michael Havay

John Swanson

Charlie Vars

Cheryl Gagne and Paul Mowatt

Doug Topliffe

Ministers to the World

Associate Pastor

Guest Preacher

Director of Music

Organist/Accompanist

Deacon in Charge

Liturgist

Ushers

Videographer

Rev. Maureen R. Frescott

Wendy Valeri

Gretchen Davis

Senior Pastor

Bell Choir Director

Interim Children's Coordinator

LAWN MOWING TEAM: Our beautiful lawn needs attention! If you are able to be a part of the 'mowing team' please sign up either through our website or by contacting Tim Wiegand. It doesn't take long and we would be most appreciative of your hard work! We will send you specific instructions in a confirmation email. Thank you!

SHARE FOOD PANTRY requests for May include canned ham, canned meats, side dishes (seasoned pasta mix, hamburger helper, etc.), ravioli & beefaroni. 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!

GARDEN FLOWERS: Fresh cut garden flowers are lovely for simple altar arrangements during the summer. If you can provide a bouquet of cut flowers, or can simply contribute flowers for a bouquet, please contact Sue Stout or Andrea in the church office to schedule a Sunday. Thank you for sharing your flower gardens!

Financial Summary

(as of April 30, 2022)

	YTD	YTD	
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$350,939	\$368,146	\$(17,207)
Expenses	\$369,919	\$373,009	\$ (3,090)
Net Income	\$ (18,979)	\$ (4,863)	\$(14,116)

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).

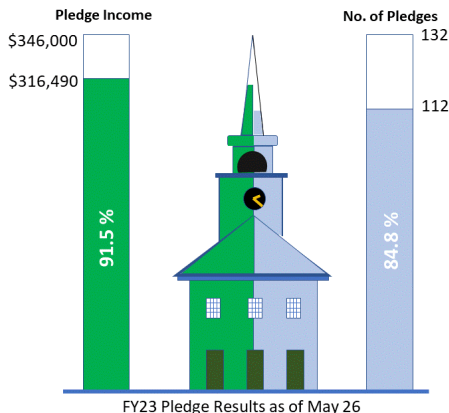
NURSERY COORDINATOR NEEDED: The position of Nursery Coordinator was created to provide consistent, quality care to children in our nursery during worship. This person may also provide care before and after worship for children through second grade whose parents are involved in choir, worship preparation,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

FAITH PROMISE: Our 2022-2023 fiscal year **Stewardship Campaign** is underway. As of Thursday, May 26, we have received pledges from 112 families, totaling \$316,490. 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/>



COVID-19 Protocols as of 4/2/22

Thank you for your ongoing patience as we navigate gathering as a community during this time of uncertainty. Here are the guidelines for in-person worship and using the church building:

1. *Masking is optional throughout the church including worship, fellowship hour, church meetings, etc.*
2. *Social distancing is optional in worship. Those who still prefer to keep a social distance while seated in the pews are encouraged to use the "Social Distancing Cards" (found at the back of the sanctuary) to create personal space.*
3. *Friendship Registers are passed at the beginning of worship. We are no longer taking names at the door of the sanctuary.*
4. *Offering plates are passed during worship.*
5. *The Passing of the Peace will remain as it has been most recently: hug the one you're with and wave or share the "peace" sign with those around you.*
6. *The choir is singing during worship, and we have reintroduced hymns to the service.*
7. *During communion, bread and juice will be passed by the deacons throughout the congregation.*

If you have any questions about our COVID-19 protocols, please do not hesitate to reach out to a member of our reopening team or one of the pastors.

Sunday, May 29, 2022