

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



*"Being against evil doesn't make you good. Tonight I was against it
and then I was evil myself. I could feel it coming just like a tide...
I just want to destroy them. But when you start taking pleasure in it
you are awfully close to the thing you're fighting."*

— Ernest Hemingway, *Islands in the Stream*

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

February 26, 2023

First 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

Grave and Adagio (Sonata II)

Mendelssohn

INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Please stand in body or in spirit.

Leader: People of God, why do we gather this day?

People: To step out on the journey that is Lent.

Leader: And where will this journey take us?

People: Into the wilderness and toward the cross.

Leader: People of God, what do we carry with us?

People: The Holy Spirit as sustenance, and God's promise as our compass.

Leader: And who shall be our guide?

People: Jesus, who travels before us and beside us.

Leader: People of God, let us begin our journey.

People: Let us worship God, together!

*HYMN

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

No. 281

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

The congregation may be seated.

Gracious God, be with us in this hour.

May we hear your Word with new ears.

May we pray, understanding that you share this space and time with us.

May your presence and Spirit moving among us be with us these forty days,
so that we will be ready to receive Easter in its fullness.

Hear us as we pray together as Jesus taught, 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.

LENTEN LITANY OF CONFESSION

inspired by Psalm 51

One: On this first Sunday of Lent
we pause and look within
to examine our hearts.
**Many: Have mercy on us, O God,
according to your steadfast love.**

One: Where we have neglected prayer,
found reasons to avoid generosity,
or lacked compassion:
**Many: Have mercy on us, O God,
according to your steadfast love.**

One: Where we have colluded
in the oppression of those
who become invisible in their suffering:
**Many: Have mercy on us, O God,
according to your steadfast love.**

One: Where anxiety has eroded the gift of your peace,
and where we have cared too much
about what others think:
**Many: Have mercy on us, O God,
according to your steadfast love.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

*GLORIA PATRI

Glory to the Creator, and to the Christ, and Holy Spirit, One;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen. Amen.

CHILDREN'S TIME

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

ANTHEM

Ave Verum
Chancel Choir

W.A. Mozart

Hail, true body born of the Virgin Mary,
Who truly suffered, sacrificed on the Cross for man,
Whose pierced side overflowed with water and blood,
Be for us a foretaste in the test of death.

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 4:1-11

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But Jesus answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

SERMON

"Away With You, Satan!"

*HYMN

When Peace, Like a River
verses 1, 2 & 4 only

insert

JOYS AND CONCERNS and PASTORAL PRAYER

If you have a prayer to share, fill out a prayer card in your pew. Cards will be collected by one of the pastors during the hymn after the sermon, and will be shared during Joys and Concerns.

CHORAL RESPONSE

INVITATION TO SHARE OUR OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY MUSIC

*DOXOLOGY (Tune: OLD HUNDREDTH, No. 592)

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

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

Holy one, receive these offerings for the work and being of your church. In this season we also dedicate to you our Lenten journeys. May they be openings and opportunities for us to experience anew the rich reality you have in mind for our lives. May we seek to recreate the world by recreating ourselves. Amen.

*HYMN

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

No. 81

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE

Trumpet Tune in B Flat Major

Roy Brunner

(*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 in the pews and 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. Maureen R. Frescott
Sara L. Phelps
Peter Labombarde
Steve Boczenowski
Scott Hewett
Sally Bowkett, Sue Ruggiero
Doug Topliffe

Ministers to the World

Senior Pastor
Director of Music
Guest Organist
Deacon in Charge
Liturgist
Ushers
Videographer

Rev. Katherine R. Kennedy
Michael Havay
Wendy Valeri
Larissa Riley

Associate Pastor
Organist/Accompanist
Bell Choir Director
Church School Coordinator

LENTEN STUDY SERIES: For four Wednesday evenings during Lent, we will gather on Zoom to discuss a wonderful new Lenten study: ***Meeting Jesus at the Table***, by Cynthia M. Campbell and Christine Coy Fohr. Pastor Maureen and Pastor Kate will alternate as facilitators of the sessions. The book is available for order online and we'll have copies in the church office available for purchase for \$15.

RSVP to pastormaureen@ccamherst.org to receive the Zoom link.

SHARE FOOD PANTRY requests for February include canned fruit, flour, sugar, boxed cake mixes and baking supplies, coffee and tea, juice, and granola. 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!

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED on Sunday mornings to help run the livestream camera and computer during worship. It's easy and we are hoping to train a few more folks so the rotation is easy on everyone. Contact Doug Topliffe (dtopliff@rcn.com) if you'd like to learn. 2023.

BEWARE OF FALLING SNOW AND ICE:

During the winter months, we want to remind everyone that snow and ice may fall from our roof at any time. Please use caution when in our driveway, and do not walk too close to the building.

Financial Summary

(as of January 31, 2023)

	YTD <u>Actual</u>	YTD <u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$300,879	\$270,877	\$30,003
Expenses	\$281,282	\$288,046	\$ (6,764)
Net Income	\$ 19,598	\$ (17,169)	\$36,767

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 (Treasurer), Doug Topliffe, Todd Whitney and Tim Wiegand.

Sunday, February 26, 2023



Community Suppers - ALL ARE WELCOME!

We are THRILLED to announce that we are again hosting a Community Supper, for the first time since COVID! Our Community Spaghetti Supper will take place at our church on Tuesday, March 28 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Our mission is to provide healthy food and friendship for all in the local community. Meet new friends and enjoy a tasty meal! Fun, food, and fellowship are guaranteed!

We will need many volunteers to host this event, so please consider signing up to volunteer. Full details can be found on the [Community Supper](#) webpage, the [SOS](#) page, or by clicking the links below.

[Community Supper Volunteer Roles & Responsibilities](#)
[Community Supper Volunteer Signup Form](#)

For more information contact [Anita Swanson](#) or [Nancy Protzmann](#).

Our Church Calendar

February 26—March 4, 2023

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
	11:15 a.m.	Fellowship
	11:15 a.m.	Youth Choir
Monday	10:00 a.m.	WA Workshop
Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	World Service
Wednesday	10:00 a.m.	Wednesday AM Adult Ed
Thursday	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir